

# Watchdog to probe lottery handouts

Audit office to inquire into grant awards

estminster Correspondent

ENEENT - PROMY SPAN

reets ahead

lundreds of millions in cash andouts from the National ottery are to be scrutinised by the National Audit Office, the public finance watchdog.

An NAO spokesman said last night that the inquiry was expected to begin later this year. It will concentrate on the Millennium Commission, National Heritage Memorial Fund, Charities Board, Sports Council and Arts Council, which in the lottery's first seven years, will distribute between £1.2hn to £1.6ba each.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund provoked a storm last year when, in a



Winston Churchill: At centre

deal negotiated by Winston Churchill MP, it bought the Churchill Papers for £12.5m and made a £55m grant to the Royal Opera House. The awards were widely criticised for going to a cultural élite.

Pressure for the NAO investigation has been growing, with critics of the lottery, notably Dennis Vaughan, who con-ceived the idea of a non-profit-making draw, claiming it had been hijacked by Camelot, the operator, and exclusive bodies.

Opposition politicians have

also claimed that lottery money is being used as a substitute for public expenditure - something it was never intended to ple who play the lottery should be consulted on the allocation

In further criticism recently, Prince Charles said that plans for the millennium celebrains, which are largely being

The NAO confirmed yesterday that once it has completed an inquiry into whether lottery funds are flowing smoothly and the thraw is being policed prop-erly, it will turn its attention to the much more sensitive issue of the distribution of grants.

NAO investigators will focus on another acutely sensitive area - possible conflicts of interest between the people making the grants and the bodies receiving them.

Why Venice has that

sinking feeling

Is it really a city in peril?

The watchdog is currently examining whether all lottery proceeds are being collected and handed over to the Governmen for passing on to the grant-mak ing bodies in time. That inquiry which is concerned with flow o funds through the system, from the sellers of tickets to the grant-making bodies, is expected to be completed shortly. "After that, we will get to the more interesting inquiry." the spokesman said.

Confirmation of the inquiry came after Sir John Bourn, the NAO head appeared before the Commons Public Accounts Committee yesterday, to present a report into the sacking last year of the director of the Fund.

Georgina Nay!er was fired after the NAO discovered she had awarded computer contracts to a company run by her boyfriend. The first contract to his firm,

Sinno Software Services, was worth £3,000 and the second, £35,000. Hayden Phillips, Permanent Secretary at the Department of National Heritage and Anthea Case, director of the fund, had been called to the committee after it was revealed that Ms Nayler received a payoff worth £35,000. It was also disclosed that she

bad been allowed to keep her joh for a further six weeks, on full pay, despite the facts being known to officials at the Department. Mr Phillips said be had to make a judgment as to whether it was wise to dismiss her immediately, which would have coincided with the first announcements of grants from the fund, or to wait while further inquiries were made. He chose the latter, prompting Michael Stern, the Conservative MP, to accuse him of making a "cosy

decision." MPs demanded to know how it was that, when Ms Nayler had clearly allowed the conflict to arise, she got any pay-off at all. Mr Phillips said she received the money on the advice of the Treasury Solicitor, who said the £35,000 was what she could expect at an industrial tribunal.

It emerged that while the payments to Ms Nayler's partner had been relatively small, he was advising on information technology contracts worth £300,000. Angela Eagle, the Labour MP, asked whether the "scope for dubious activities involving large amounts of money was quite wide?" She also pointed to the rapid growth of Simno Software.



Escape route: A man hurries through the debris in Colombo yesterday as firefighters tackle a building set ablaze by the lorry-bomb attack

# Sri Lanka suicide bomber kills 60

TIM MCGIRK

A suicide bomber crashed a lorry packed with explosives into Sri Lanka's central bank, killing nearly 60 people and injuring more than 1,400 others during the morning rush hour yesterday in the heart of Colombo. The force of the blast gutted eight buildings and brought a cascade of glass on to the panicked wounded victims wandering in the streets.

A Sri Lankan military

meu me comn attack on Tamil separatist guerrillas. "It had to be the Tamil Tigers. Who else would have done such a thing like this?" be asked. The blast was seen as Tamil revenge against the army for having captured the main Tiger guerrilla base at Jaffna, on the north of the island, during a long and bloody campaign that ended last December. Eyewitness accounts differed,

but it appeared that a lorry carrying explosives managed to Checkpoints on roads leading into the Sri Lankan capital. Despite tight security, the capital has been rocked nearly 15 times by suicide bombers - the preferred weapon of the Tamil Tigers - in 12 years of ethnic war with the Sinhalese majority. A driver and at least two oth-

ers were in the lorry when it raced up to the central bank, on a husy thoroughfare next to the president's office, hotels and key government and military in-stallations. Two of the suspect-

and fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the bank's sentry box while the driver rammed his explosives-laden vehicle into the bank. Two youths wearing jackers filled with explosives were later arrested at the Fort railway station nearby. Police said the two suspects, who were also carrying automatic weapons, may have been the men who attacked

the bank's security post.
The facade of the nine-story building was blasted open. Smoke poured from fires in

rained in a deedly shower from 34-storey skyscrapers. Cars were somersaulted by the blast and burst into flames. What had been a busy, normal street a few seconds before was transformed into a devastated landscape. Dazed and bloodied survivors bobbled through a wreckage of mangled bodies, fire, glass shards, and twisted metal.

Office workers trapped on the upper floors of flaming buildings were lifted to safety by helicopters. Rescue officials said the

spokesman, Brigadier Sarath slip through the dozens of army ed Tamil guerrillas jumped out nearby huildings and glass death toll could rise far higher: the central bank huilding alanhad nearly 3,000 workers.

As darkness fell, fears grew that Sinhalese mobs might descend on Tamil neighbourhoods and take their vengeance for vesterday's carnage. The bomb may prompt the

Australian cricket team to pull out of their World Cup match in Colombo on 17 February against Sri Lanka. But Sri Lankan officials said the match

would go ahead as planned. Tamils take revenge, page 8

# Independent body to rule on MPs' pay

**DONALD MACINTYRE** Political Editor

The Government was last night preparing to hand the highly sensitive issue of MPs' pay over to an independent body after Labour came out in favour of referring it to Lord Nolan's Committee on Standards in Public Life.

As the leaderships of all three main political parties were put on the defensive by the gathering momentum of MPs campaigning for a big hike in parliamentary salaries. Ann Taylor, Shadow leader of the Commons, backed the all-party demand by more than 300 MPs for the Nolan committee to determine their pay.

Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, is already studying a series of options for the future fixing of MPs' pay. A review by the Nolan committee would require John Major to alter the committee's terms of reference.



Some in the Government were last night advocating the use of the Senior Salaries Review Board, which fixes pay for judges, generals and senior civ-

Downing Street refused to commit Mr Major in advance of a report Mr Newton will make to the Cabinet. But the motion

is signed by influential members of the Tory backbench 1922 committee, including its chairman, Sir Marcus Fox, and more than half of the Parliamentary

Labour Party.

Although the Labour leadership backed the EDM motion last night, senior party sources. with a lively sense that the issue could be one of the first to face the party in government if it wins the election, went out of their way to suggest a Labour Government would not see a big increase in MPs' pay "as one its first priorities".

Anxiety among leaders of the main parties that a big readjustment of MPs' pay could intensify the electorate's disenchantment with politicians was exposed by Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats. He said of his own £34,000 pay: "I have no difficulty with my salary as an MP.

TURN TO PAGE TWO

### Take sugary puffs with a pinch of salt

GLENDA COOPER

Breakfast cereals that claim to be a healthy eating option should be treated with a pinch of sait, according to the consumer guide Which?

Cereals targeted at slimmers often have no fewer calories and different ways of measuring fibre make comparisons almost impossible, the guide, published by the Consumers' Association, said. In 1994, consumers in the United Kingdom ate £1 bn worth of cereal.

Perfect Balance, produced by Weight Watchers, contains only 2 calories per 100g fewer than Kellogg's Bran Flakes (318 cals per 100g compared with 320 cals per 100g), while having 25-30 per cent less fibre. And, despite advertisements that show sylphlike bodies, Kellogg's Special K has the same amount of calories and double the sugar of Kellogg's Cornflakes.

Added sugar was a problem in many cereals. An unsweetened cereal contains less than 1g of sugar per 100g. But added sugar in Sugar Puffs makes up nearly half its total weight.

It is illegal to make false claims that products can help prevent, cure or treat a disease but the Consumers' Association says some cereals imply they will be good for the heart. Bran Hearts, from Jordans, come in a heart shape and Kellogg's Common Sense is pictured in a heart-shaped bowl on the box.

Which? also expressed concern about cereals aimed at children. A recent survey looked at television advertisements appearing at children's peak viewing times. It found that almost one in five of the food and drink advertisements were for cereals and three-quarters of these cereals were high in sugar.

Brands such as Kellogg's Coco Pops, Frosties and Com Pops, billed as "part of your nu-tritious breakfast", contain more than 40 per cent sugar.

Kellogg's yesterday defended its advertising of children's cereals, saying that they contained many nutrients vital to health and growth.

#### IN BRIEF Windfall for 3 million

Three million members of the Alliance & Leicester will receive a shares windfall following the society's announcement that it is to become a bank. Page 3

Airline accused

The first criminal prosecution against a scheduled airline for endangering the life of passengers is being brought after both engines on a British Midland jet ran out of oil.

**Ecstasy victim's agony** The parents of ecstasy victim Leah Betts told an inquest how she clawed at them in agony before collapsing.

PC guilty of smuggling A woman police officer has been found guilty of helping her father in a gold smuggling scheme.

Today's weather Fine and dry with some sunny



BUSINESS 16-18 COMMENT 14,15 CROSSWORD 24 GAZETTE 12 LAW REPORT 12 ONE LEADING ARTICLES 14 LETTERS 14 OBITUARIES 12 SHARES 19 SPORT 21-24 UNIT TRUSTS 20



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# Kinnock in row over subsidy for state airline

Chief Political Correspondent

Neil Kinnock was last night ac-cused by Tory MPs of deliver-ing a "kick in the teeth" for British Airways after Britain's European Commissioner for Transport approved a state sub-sidy of £440m for the Spanish

state airline, Iberia. Sir George Young, Secre-tary of State for Transport, led the criticism of the deal, the first controversial decision since the former Labour leader was appointed 12 months ago.

Tory MPs were furious that it could lead to unfair compe-tition against BA, the former state airline which has made a

profit since being privatised.

Mr Kinnock said the Commission was still committed to phasing out state subsidies for airlines, but said the money for the struggling airline was not state aid in the traditional sense.

But Sir George said: "UK air-lines compete in Europe without subsidy. It is about time the Commission insisted that other airlines are also run on pure-It really does stretch credi-

bility to claim that a commercial investor would be willing to put any money at all into Iberia. It has been losing money for

Ministers will seek to embarrass Tony Blair, the Labour leader, today over the decision which they say has echoes of "Old Labour". A Labour source shareholder".

defended Mr Kinnock, "He's just doing his job."

But Tory MPs, clearly sensing Labour could be thrown on to the defensive again, accused the former Labour leader of turning the clock back. Winston Churchill, the Tory MP for Davyhulme, said it was a "kick

in the teeth" for British Airways.
"It is outrageous when we are
trying to level the playing field within Europe by removing subsidies which distort compention," said Michael Colvin, chairman of the Tory back-bench foreign affairs committee.

A former Tory aviation minister. Sir Michael Spicer, said "the system of allowing subsi-

dies in Europe is very bad". But Mr Kinnock hinted that the airline could qualify for Commission approval for about £100m more in aid from the Spanish government in 1997, if there were improvements in the company's performance.

He stressed it should not be seen as a signal to other loss-making airlines that the Commission will approve other forms of government support.
He said be had only given approval after slashing the amount of aid to the airline and winning strict concessions to ensure no trade distortion with competing national airlines in Europe.

Iberia said it had been "vindicated" and that Mr Kinnock had ruled "that the capital injection is not state aid but sen-

#### Airline prosecuted for 'putting lives in danger'

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

The first criminal prosecution against a scheduled airline for endangering the life of passengers is being brought by the Civl Aviation Authority, after a British Midland jet with 180 people on board was forced to make an emergency landing when both engines ran oul of

The incident last year, on a flight from East Midlands to Lanzarote in the Canary Islands, occurred on the Boeing 737's first flight after routine maintenance at the airport. The flight, BD3141, on February 23, had just reached cruising height when the pilots noticed low oil pressure readings on

In a statement the airline, Britain's second largest sched-uled carrier, said that the lack of oil pressure had been caused when "two components which had been removed from the aircraft were not correctly repositioned". Both engines bad smoke pouring out when the plane made an emergency landng at Luton

British Midland is charged with two summonses under the Air Navigation Order 1989 for "negligent endangering" of both passengers on the plane and the public at large. The airline faces a maximum fine of £2,000 on each count. A twoyear prison sentence can be imposed, but as the prosecution is being brought against the airline rather than any individuals, this is not relevant in this case.



Shades of eloquence: Methodist minister Lord Soper stands on a soap box in Tower Hill, London, yesterday, his 93rd birthday, to deliver one of his controversial sermons; he returned to his favoured themes in 69 years of preaching - socialism, republicanism and pacifism. Photograph: Brian Harris

# Couples may adopt embryos

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

Childless couples could be offered one or more of 3,000 frozen emhryos now in storage at fertility clinics where contact has been lost with the biological

parents, it has been suggested. Health ministers are considering the "adoption" proposal made by Comment on Repro-ductive Ethics (CORE), described as a non-religious, non-political lobby group which wants more open discussion of the ethical issues surrounding test-tube babies - including length of emhryo storage - and other fertility treatments.

It emerged recently that fertility clinics are unable to contact the owners or parents of at ieast 3 000 frozen embryos cre ated when couples had fertility treatment up to five years ago. The surplus embryos were held in storage in case the couples

wanted to extend their families However, current legislation dictates that the embryos should be destroyed after five years although Stephen Dorrell. Secretary of State for Health, has indicated that new regulations will allow embryos to be stored for up to 10 years.

# Yorkshire Water offers bonus to drought staff

Yorkshire Water, which it has confirmed that all 3,600 employees will be given an ex-August complaining that no tra day off on 27 December, and one could have forecast the summer's drought, is to pay cash bonuses to staff who worked to keep supplies flowing to cus-

The company has promised to give thank-you payments to employees who worked excessive hours to stop rota water cuts being introduced in the region.

Despite the fact that Ian By-att, director-general of the water watchdog Ofwat, described the situation at Yorkshire Waler: as "not acceptable", the company refused to rule out the possibility that its much-criti-. cised executives could also get extra cash. The privatised waler company has yet to decide who will receive the i

The settlement of a libel action

hrought by Dr Soua'd M Al

Sabah, a member of the Kuwait

ruling family, against the Inde-

pendent newspaper was an-

nounced in the High Court

yesterday.

that about £20 per head will be made available to departmental heads to organise a "team event" as an extra reward. The drought this year was an

exceptional, one-off event, and it's thanks to the very, very hard work and long exceptional hours put in by many people that Yorkshire people have not suffered cuts to their supply," a company spokesman said.

Many employees had cancelled holidays at short notice and their family lives were dis-rupted, he said, adding: "All of us get paid for coming lo work, but if people are asked to put in extra effort this company as a good employer will reward

on 12 May that Dr Al Sabah was

the Independent offered very

sincere and unreserved apolo-

tained a serious libel.

and that could be at any level." Peter Bowler, of the consumer group Yorkshire Water-watch, said: "I think it's right that the people who did the hard work are rewarded for the effort they put in. But it's tragic that they were pul under this stress because of management's failure to read the warning signs. Yorkshire Water needs to learn the lessons of this summer in more ways than one, and if

senior managers and directors are rewarded for having failed to make the right decisions then customers will quite rightly demand a different board of An independent inquiry into the drought crisis, which left homes in Kirklees and price of cereals have helped

Calderdale within weeks of rota and how much they will get. But where they are best deserved, pected to be convened shortly. Dr Soua'd Al Sabah

gies to Dr Al Sabah for having

repeated the allegation comseeking an injunction restrainplained of which we acknowling publication of a book. Thatcher's Gold, which conedge is totally without found-In the High Court yesterday,

The newspaper agreed to pay Dr Al Sabah substantial compensation and costs.

#### Young criminals

reach record high

A record number of young delinquents have been placed under criminal supervision or ders to local authorities, new houres from the Department of Health showed yesters.

Around 4,700 under olds were required reprobation officers of workers under the haviour rules in 1995, a 35 pacent rise on the last 12 months

#### Two women stabbed

A man, 48, was arrested in two women. Lyna Oxtoby, 30 and her mother, Eveline, 61 were found stabbed to death outside their home in Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire

#### Mother charged

The mother of 14-month old August while in hospital - 20 peared before Salford in his trates charged with murd her baby, who had suffered from severe deformity of her head which affected her sight and breathing. Julie Watts 29 of Greater Manchester, war remanded on bail until 13 March

Alliance

flotation

means

£2.5bn

windfall

and the second

#### Twins' double save

Identical twins who both imderwent life-saving surgery for a rare heart defect were discharged from Southampton General Hospital after making an "excellent recovery", doctors said. Rachael and Laura Boyce, three, are believed to bette first pair of identical twins to liave had the operation.

#### Murder charge

Farmers'

incomes up

by a third

Farmers' incomes soured by

one-third last year. It is the

fourth year running that agri-

cultural incomes have grown in

real terms - and they are ex-

pected to rise again apprecia-

bly this year. The farmers'

rapidly rising prosperity comes after a decade of decline.

The Ministry of Agriculture

yesterday said farming income,

which covers only farmers and

their spouses, had risen by 34

per cent between 1994 and

1995 - or 29 per cent in real terms - to just over £4ba.

The depreciation of the pound against European cur-

rencies and the high world

ecutives at National Health

Service trusts are running at

twice the rate awarded to nurs-

es, according to the latest re-

turns. Union leaders yesterday

search which showed that while

the total earnings of the senior

administrators increased by 7.6

per cent in the year to last

March, nursing staff saw their

average total pay rise by just 3.2

Richard Tracey: Sir Gerard

Vaughan; Bernie Grant; Win

Gunnell; Mike Hall; Bill Walk-

er; Ray Whitney; David Han-

son; Peter Hardy; Sir Jerry

Wiggin; Roy Hattersley; John Wilkinson; David Hinchliffe;

Margaret Hodge; Ann Win-terton; Kate Hoey; Norman Hogg; Nicholas Winterton:

Jimmy Hood; Dr Kim Howells:

John Home Robertson.

Peter Viggers: Iden: John

registered their anger over re

NICHOLAS SCHOON

Neil Owen, 19, appeared before magistrates accused of the rape and murder of Claire Hood, 15, whose body was found in woods near her home in Cardif, in January 1995. He was remain-ed in custody until 9 February.

#### Gloomy days

Until some last-minute sunshine, England was heading for its dullest January since records began in 1909. Figures up to yesterday showed an average of 0,8 hours – 48 minutes – of sunshine a day last month across England and Wales, beating the current record of 0.9 hours in 1917.

#### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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### The action related to a report Independent body to review MPs' pay

#### FROM PAGE 1

Our pay is adequate for the job we are required to do. And the only circumstance in which I would support a substantial rise was if that was a one-off compensation for MPs doing only one job."

Mr Ashdown, three of whose senior front-benchers signed the motion, said he was against the Nolan committee being used to review MPs' pay, be-cause its remit was to investigate conduct. He added that it should be dealt with by an in-

dependent body. While senior Labour frontbench figures sought to distance their own supporters from what they said had been informal briefings from Tory backbenchers that their salaries should be doubled to around £70,000 a year. Doug Hoyle, chairman of the Parliamentary Lahour Party, nevertheless declared that "a life of dedication should not be one of exoloitation.

Mr Hoyle, MP for Warrington North, said: "There will never be a 'good' time, in the eyes of the public, to look at MPs' pay. Now that the demand is growing for MPs to be full-time,

Job

High Court judge

Bank manager School teacher

Train driver

Nurse

Prison Office

Social worker

Häirdresser

Brigadier Police Superintendent

they have got to be adequately rewarded, if we are to attract people of the right calibre."

He added: "I believe that MPs pay has fallen behind the pay of other European parliaments and other professions

outside the House. The issue has come to a head at an especially sensitive time, because the Cabinet is widely expected to approve pay increases within the inflation rate for nurses, teachers, the armed forces, doctors and den-

tists and civil servants. Nevertheless, there was evident backing for the proposals from some ministers yesterday, several of whom pointed that £10,000 of their MPs' salaries was docked every year thanks to a decision by Baroness Thatcher leaving Ministers of State at a salary at around £57,000 a year, with no oppor-tunity for outside earnings.

Lord Nolan vesterday refused to say whether he sympathised with demands by MPs for higher pay. "At the moment, as far as we are concerned, it is a hypothetical issue, because it is not one of the functions of our committee to express a view on it," he said. "It is not within our terms of reference

Salary

£98,000

£38,000 - £46,000 £20,000 - £25,000

£18,000.

£16,500. £15,600

£15,000.

£13,500.

£7,500. £7,200.

have signed a Commons motion calling for an inquiry into their Principal sponsors: Alfred Morris: Sir Terence

This a full list of the MPs who

Higgins; Sir David Steel; Sir James Molyneaux: Margaret Ewing: Dafydd Wigley. The supporters: Doug Hoyle; Rupert Allason;

Diane Abbott: John Hume; Irene Adams; Jacques Arnold; Nick Ainger; Elfyn Llwyd; Clif-ford Forsythe; Robert Atkins; Graham Allen; Dr Joe Hen-

dron; Ken Maginnis; Vivian Bendall; Donald Anderson; Seamus Mallon; Sir Andrew Bowden; Janet Anderson; William Ross; Sir Rhodes Boyson; Joe Ashton; David Trimble; Michael Brown; Lawrence Cunliffe. John Austin-Walker, Eddie McGrady: John Butcher: Tony Banks: Stuart Bell: Matthew

Carrington; Andrew F Bennett; Dr Michael Clark; Gerald Bermingham; Quentin Davies; Clive Betts; Dr Jeremy Bray; Den Dover, Boh Dunn; Richard Burden; Sir Anthony Durant; Stephen Byers; Hugh Dykes; Jim Callaghan; Michael Fabri-cant; Nigel Forman; Sir Marcus Fox; Ronnie Campbell; Dalc Campbell-Savours;

Christopher Gill. Sir John Gorst; Sir Anthony Grant; Harry Greenway, Den-nis Canavan; Eric Clarke; Ann Clwyd: John Greenway. Peter Griffiths; Sir Michael Grylls: Ann Coffey; Sir Archibald Hamilton: Harry Cohen; Sir John Hannam; Michael Connarty; Andrew Frank Cook; Warren Hawk-

Michael Jopling; Tam Dalyell; Sir David Knox, Ian Davidson. Bryan Davies; Norman Lam-ont; Denzil Davies; Sir Ivan Lawrence; Sir Mark Lennox-Boyd: Terry Davis: Joan Lestor: Don Dixon; Sir David Madel; Brian H Donohoe; Sir Michael Marshall; Jinimy Dunnachie; Michael Mates; Gwyneth Dunwoody; Iain Mills : Angela Eagle: Sir David Mitchell; Ken Eastham; Sir

mings; Sir Peter Hordern; Toby

Jessel; Jim Cunningham; Sir

Gcoffrey Johnson Smith;



The 300 who want an inquiry by Nolan

Griffiths

George Walden;

Roger Moate; Bill Etherington; Sir Fergus Montgomery; Derek Fatchett. James Pawsey; Mark Fisher; Elizabeth Peacock; Paul Flynn; Sir Wyn Roberts; Marion Roe; George Foulkes; Andrew Rowe; Marla Fyfe; Sir Nicholas Scon; Sam Galbraith; Sir Giles Shaw; Roger Sims; George Galloway; Sir Trevor

Mike Gapes; Sir James Spicer, John Garrett; Dr Allan Stewart: Dr Norman A Goodman; Godsiff, Walter Frank Cook; Warren Hawk-sley: Robin Corbett: Jerry Lin Golding: Mildred Gordon; Morris; John Morris; George

David Jamieson; Barry Jones: Martyn Jones; Gerald Kauf-man; Alan Keen; Jane Kennedy; Piara S Khabra; Pe-ter Kilfoyle; Helen Liddell; Robert Litherland; Ken Livingstone; Denis MacShane; ohn McAllion; John McFall; William McKelvey; Gordon McMaster: Kevin McNamara: John McWilliam; Max Madien; Helen Jackson; Dr John Marek: Jim Marshall; Michael

J Martin; Eric Martlew. John Maxton; Alan Meale; Bill Michie; Austin Mitchell; Dr Lewis Moonie; Estelle

Hayes; Jim Cousins; Robert Sir Malcoim Thornton; Cyril D Mudie; Paul Murphy, Gordon Hicks; Tom Cox; John Cum-Townsend; Thornton Graham; Oakes; William O'Brien; Ed-Oakes; William O'Brien; Ed-ward O'Hara; Bill Olner; Stanley Orme; Ian Pearson; Tom

Colin Pickthall, Peter L Pike; Greg Pope; Ray Powell: Ken Purchase; Joyce Out Stuart Randall; Dr John Reid Allan Rogers, Ernie Ross, Brian Sedgemore; Barry Sheerman: Peter Snape; Clive Soley: Nigel Spearing, Rachel Squire. Gerry Steinberg, Roger Stott. Gerry Sutcliffe, Jack Thomp son; Stephen Timms; Don Toubig; Keith Vaz; Sir Harold

Joan Walley, Gareth Wardell, Robert N Wareing; Alan W Williams, Alan Williams, Brian Wilson, David Winnick, Audrey Wise, Jimmy Wray; David Young Matthew Taylor, Simon Hughes; Liz Lynne: Roger Berry: Ray Michie: Paul Tyler, Alan Ber-th: Diana Maddock: Menzies Camphell; Geoffrey Robin-son; Dr John Gilbert; Jon Owen Jones; Gordon Prentice. Eddie Loyden; Alan Simp-son; Geoffrey Hoon; Bruce

son; Geoffrey Hoon; Bruce-George; Andrew Miller; Gre-ville Janner; Nigel Griffiths. Cynog Dafis; Robert Ainsworth; Bridget Prentice: Joe Benton; Dr Tony Wright; John Heppell; Tessa Jowell; Dennis Turner; Michael Clapham Clapham.

Peter Hain; Keith Bradley, Keith Hill; Martin Redn go John Hutton; Paul Boniens Martin O'Neill; Malcoli Chisholm; John Battle; Jim Dowd; John Evans; John Den ham; Frank Field; Majcola Wicks: Alan Milburn; Ton Worthington; Jean Corston Eric Illsley, Tony Lloyd; Nick Raynsford: Barbara Roche, Alun Michael: Elliot Morley

لمكذا من ألاصل

Other people's jobs in Britain

# Leah's ecstasy death 'like horror film'

LOUISE JURY

RSDAY: FEERPARY 1996

IN BRIEF

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Oghbridge North Yorkshire

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New Labour The Thirthe

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Whose the State of

Post of the Control o

Murder charge

Gloomy days

Twins' double save Menticul (war, 15 - both up-

**Mother** charged

The parents of ecstasy victim Leah Betts yesterday told a nacked coroner's court of the terrible moments when their daughter clawed at them in agony before collapsing into inconsciousness.

In the evidence to Chelmsford coroner's court, in Essex, Paul and Janet Betts relived the night of Leah's 18th birthday last November when she took the ecstasy tablet that was

After hearing that "ecstasy poisoning" caused Leah to collapse and die, the coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Their heads howed, Mr Betts's arm protectively around his wife's shoulder, the couple

Alliance

flotation

means

£2.5bn

windfall

More than three million memhers of Alliance & Leicester,

Britain's fourth largest building

society, will receive a shares

windfall worth at least £2,5bn,

following the society's an-

nouncement yesterday that it is

Both the society's 520,000 borrowers and its 2.5 million

share account members will

receive shares worth about

£800, in return for backing the

sion brings to an end a two-year

de-mutualisation frenzy which

has seen millions of savers, and tens of thousands of speculators.

gain from a shares and cash bonanza worth up to £17bn.

Any investor who placed £100 in each of the Halifax.

Cheltenham & Gloucester, Na-tional & Provincial, Woolwich

and Alliance & Leicester before

they raised minimum limits on new accounts last summer will have received at least £3,000 in

cash and shares. Leeds Perina-

nent members gain by their merger with the Halifax. In the case of Alliance & Leicester, reports of its demutualisation, which first ap-

peared in the *Independent* in September, eventually led it to raise its minimum limit to £5,000 and then to close its doors to all new accounts ear-

The society claimed yesterday that the number of "carpetbaggers", those who opened ac-

counts solely in order to benefit

from the shares windfall, was

Peter White, the society's

group chief executive, said:

We will allow all our members

Halifax building societies.

Among its assets are Girobank, bought in 1990,

which operates through almost

20,000 Post Office outlets and

pays Giro cheques to millions

of social security claimants. Al-

hance & Leicester plans to sig-

nificantly expand Girobank's

activities, including a range of

more than £22bn.

likely to be minimal.

her this month.

Alliance & Leicester's deci-

to become a bank,

flotation.

NIC CICUTTI

long time friend of Leah's, described how the two girls had given up elubbing at Raquel's in Basildon, after an argument with a member of staff there. She said the two then preferred to stay in and though they had experimented with cannabis and amphetamines before, neither were regular drug users.

Miss Cargill explained that the girls had arranged to huy four tablets from a friend's new boyfriend. They were warned the pills were stronger than those they had tried before and on that Saturday night they had discussed whether to take a whole or just half a tablet. They both swallowed a whole tablet at 7.45pm and waited for guests to arrive.

"I felt different from how I had on previous occasions but sat quietly as Sarah Cargill. a I still felt fine," Miss Cargill said.

Leah had drunk only moderately during the evening and had spent most of the time chatting with friends. She only hecame ill towards the end of the night when she began drinking "glass after glass" of water.

لَكُذَا مِن الرَّصَلِّ

Taking up the story, Mr and Mrs Betts came close to tears as they described how their daughter stopped breathing within minutes of being taken ill in the family bathroom where she had gone to drink water. Mrs Betts said: "I went up-

stairs and found her leaning over the washbasin. f said, 'What's up Leah?'. She turned round and when I saw her eyes I knew there was something wrong. They were so hig, they were enormous. It was like something out of a horror film." As the couple carried Leah to her bedroom, she revealed to

them how she had taken the and was effectively suffering. Weir concluded: "If she hadn't drug as she had done twice hefore. She then became increasingly ill, complaining of numbness in the face and legs. and of a headache and feeting sick, "She was clawing and screaming at me to help her."

Mrs Betts said. The teenager slumped into a deeper state of collapse just as her mother was put through to ambulance control. The couple began artificial resuscitation after Leah stopped breathing. She was pronounced dead after showing no sign of recovery during five days of intensive care Broomfield Hospital,

Dr Alasdair Short, the consultant who treated her, said tests showed she had a much higher water level in her body than might have been expected

from "water intoxication". The resulting pressure on the brain stopped the part which controls normal functions, such as brea-

thing, from working properly. One of Britain's leading ecstasy experts, Dr John Henry of the National Poisons Unit at Guy's Hospital, London, said several cases in recent years had showed that the impact of drinking too much water to counteract cestasy's effects could be just as damaging as the dehydration often associated with the drug. He said in some people eestasy reduced the kidney's ability to cope with water. Dr Paula Lannas, the Home Office pathologist, said that there

were no safe levels of the drug. Noting Leah's rapid deterioration took only a quarter of an hour. Coroner Dr Malcolm

taken the eestasy, she wouldn't have had the problem."

Recording a verdict of accidental death caused by nondependant abuse of drugs. Dr Weir paid tribute to the "stoicism and strength of character" of Mr and Mrs Betts who have campaigned ceaselessly against the use of eestasy since Leah's death. "I can only hope that all these efforts in bringing to a public forum all the dangers of eestasy will be listened to by those people who expose themselves to this drug." he said.

"If it prevents one more fatality. Leah Betts's death will not have been in vain."

After the hearing, Mr Betts. a retired policeman, said the inquest was "the end of a chapter". But he and his wife, Leah's step-mother, would continue

Leah Betts: Poisoned by drug

their campaign. "It's so pointless [young people] throwing their lives away for a couple of hours of fun," he said. "This verdict is a clear cut message. Nobody knows how this drug i going to affect you."

### advert sealed with a gay kiss

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

Virgin has teamed up with a London har to create an advertisement that will show a homosexual couple kiss for the first time on British television.

The advertisement for Virgin Vodka will feature on the satellite music channel MTV for three months beginning in March. Later Virgin hopes it will get shown during a latenight slot on Channel 4, possi-

hly after The Girlie Show. The advertisement jointly promotes The Edge, a busy gay and straight har in Soho, and Virgin Vodka, which was launched in the London area in November 1994.

It shows 30 seconds of documentary clips from three hours' filming of a husy Friday night at the har. One shot shows a heterosexual couple kissing and another two-second clip features two men kissing.

Other shots promote the vodka by showing the har staff pouring from Virgin Vodka bottles and drinkers holding Virgin Vodka glasses,

The advertisement is likely to lead a trend towards overtly gay advertising, following a warmup of the television viewing market by Brookside and East-Enders, both of which have featured young women having leshian affairs.

Jackie McQuillan, PR manager for Virgin, said the adver-tisement had received clearance from the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre for screening on MTV from next month,

"It is targeted at the 18-to-35year-old market where the pink pound is very strong. We'd be mad to ignore it," she said. "This is a way of opening up more re-alistic advertising. If that means showing gay couples than I hope that's the case."

Virgin bas a 1.1 per cent share of the national vodka market, according to recent figures. By far the highest share label supermarket brands,



Festival of fire: A Viking longship being set alight by 900 torch carriers at Lerwick, Shetland, as the climax of the midwinter pageant, Up-Helly-Aa Photograph: Graeme Storey

# Killer tells of yacht robbery 'executions'

The final moments in the lives of four people who were sadistically executed aboard a British racing yacht in the Caribbean were revealed yesterday for the first time - by one of the killers.

share in the society." He deof the three men who furtively chined to give any details of how slipped aboard the 65ft ketch as The shares distribution will take it was moored overnight off the paradise island of Barbuda. place, arguing that a number of legal and regulatory hurdles had to be overcome before a de-Yesterday he claimed in court that the intention of the three

was robbery.
But in less than 15 minutes. cision could be made. To freeze out speculators, Alliance & Leicester has also the two British crew of the Computa Center Challenger and retrospectively set 31 December, 1995 as the cut-off date, its two middle-aged American er which new investors will guests, were dead. to be able to henefit from its

They had been trussed up, tortured and finally shot in cold blood after the killers Alliance & Leicester said it would ballot its members before the end of the year. If the flotafailed to find a substantial amount of cash they believed tion is agreed, it would take was hidden on board the boat.

place in March or April 1997, Rex Mackay QC, prosecuting in the case at Antigua's High thead of the Woolwich and Court, described the killings of ship's captain Ian Cridland, The decision to seek a listing deck hand Thomas Williams op the Stock Exchange will catand the guests, Kathy and Bill Cleaver, as a senseless, savage apult it into the FT-SE 100 list of top companies, with assets of

and sadistic execution". Unemployed Samuel, 23, yesterday changed his original plea of not guilty to an admission of guilt to manslaughter. It was accepted by the prosecution, who immediately put him into the witness box.

In an outline of his evidence last night, Samuel claimed be and the two other accused, 23-Simple savings products and the two other accusates and Business comment, page 17 year-old Mellanson Harris and



Gunned down: Kathy and William Cleaver aboard the Challenger, whose voyage ended in 'senseless savagery'

planned " to get some money at He told the court: "It was all

Marvin Joseph's idea." The three young men stole a small rowing hoat and paddled out to where the luxury ketch was moored, in Low Bay, Barbnda - where the Princess of Wales took a holiday last month. Samuel told the court: "We

crept on board the bigger boat and Marvin had the shotgun. He said he'd stick up the captain."

Over the next 15 minutes the three men tied up the four sailors, hands behind their backs, with their mouths taped. Samuel told the court how be

searched the Challenger's cab-

ins and found a video camera and a small amount of cash. He added: "At that time I was on my own and that's when everything bad happened. The

22-year-old Marvin Joseph, crew were sitting around the planned "to get some money at table when I last saw them, they were healthy, still alive. I was ready to go back because we had finished what we'd come for, we just wanted money and I want-

"Then when I went back in

they were all dead. They were shot. Shot by Mel and Marvin." In a heated exchange with de-fence counsel, Clement Bird, Samuel denied he had changed his plea because he was afraid to die and wanted to escape the death sentence. "Everybody

has to die someday and I'm not afraid," Samuel told the court. Samuel claimed he changed his plea because he never had any part to play in the actual killings. He said he never realised the planned robbery of the Challenger and its occupants was to be "with violence."

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# Toads spring right-handed surprise

TOM WILKIE

Roads are right handed, ac-cording to a team of Italian and

In today's issue of the scien-tific journal Nature, Giorgio Vallortigara of Udine University in Italy and his colleagues report that when common toads

likely to use their right paw than birds that use their claws to hold

Apart from a very few naturally ambidextrons people, human beings show a distinct "handedness". Most prefer to use their right hands for tasks involving delicate manipulation. Left-handers are less

common. Biologists have observed simare forced to use their front ilar handedness in many other paws to remove something from animals and "footedness" has their face, they are much more even been observed in some

and manipulate objects. But "right-pawedness" among toads has come as a surprise. Biologists had assumed that the preference for one side or the other developed only in these animals that use hands, feet, claws or paws to pick up or hold

Although the human preference for one hand or the other clearly has an inborn component, the tendency to favour one

hand is then reinforced by continual use of the hands during infancy and childhood, so that one side of the hrain comes to dominate in directing Toads use their paws in only limited ways, so the fact that

they have a significant preference suggests that handedness and the changes in the brain that accompany it could have evolved very early in evolu-

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0161 839 8877

Traffic statistics: Accident rates in one part of west London have begun rising as motorists become blasé about safety measures

# Speed cameras starting to lose deterrent effect

**CHRISTIAN WOLMAR** 

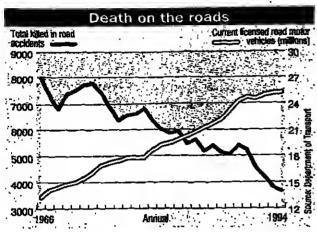
Motorists are increasingly ignoring automatic cameras, used to prosecute drivers for speed-ing or going through red lights, because they are becoming too

While there has been a reduction in accidents in west London, where a demonstration project was introduced two years ago, the rate has begun ris-

ing again as drivers become blase about the cameras.

Yesterday, while unveiling the 300th camera site in London, Steven Norris, the road safety minister, said cameras had proved effective "in deterring speed in areas that in the past have suffered too many unnecessary accidents".

Figures from the west London project show that fatal accidents have reduced from 23 per year before the installation



of cameras to 7 per year afterwards. Similarly, serious casu-alties are down from 271 to 233.

However, when the statistics are examined oo an anoual basis, they show that the year before the cameras were intro-duced, there were 1,267 accidents. This went down to 1,015 the following year, but rose again to 1,161 last year.

In terms of the number of casualties, the figures for the three years are 1,661, 1,324 and 1,544; showing that the rate is nearly back up to the level it was before the cameras were in-

The police admitted, too, that there had been a 45 per cent increase in accidents caused by cars being driven too close to the vehicle in froot. as a result of all traffic slowing down for the cameras, which are all clearly signposted. Mr Norris rejected sugge

tions that the deterrent effect on motorists reduced as they became familiar with the location of sites, but admitted: "The resuits won't go oo plunging as they first did."

Familiarity breeds a certain



Caught in the act: Traffic travelling along Milibank under the watchful gaze of one of the 300 cameras sited around London

contempt in all these things and the idea that road safety measures decrease in their success over time is one we are all aware of," the minister said.

Although there are 300 sites around Loodoo, many have only dummy equipment since

the actual cameras costs £27,000 each and the Metropolitan Police says it cannot afford to have a camera permanently in every

The dummy cameras still flash as if they were fully functioning and therefore still act as

a deterrent. Almost 15,000 people were prosecuted last year for speeding offences after they were caught by the cameras. Each received a £40 fine and three points on their

manager for the Royal Automobile Club, welcomed the reduction in accidents but warned that too many prosecutions might result in people oot tak-

ing speeding seriously.

With so many speeding fines being issued automatically, peo-

ple are treating them a bit parking tickets," Mr King sa accident blackspots, but some of them are on straight stret

# Channel's missing link settled at last

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

After nearly a year's deliberations consisting of 320 hours of public sessions, the Commons committee examining the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill has decided on a final route for the oew 68-mile high-speed railway - but has ducked the thorny issue of compensation.

In outlining its final decisions yesterday, the chairman of the committee, Sir Antooy Durani MP announced that the committee had resolved the final sticking points, ootably the approach into St Pancras statioo n north London.

The link between St Pancras and the mouth of the Channel Tunnel near Folkestone is oow oot expected to be completed until 2003 because of delays to Parliamentary procedure caused by the high number of objectors to the project.

Moreover, the committee has passed over the issue of compensation which threatens the project whose estimated cost has already overtaken the E3bn mark; in a letter leaked last summer, Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, warned that excessively generous compensation would eopardise the viability of the rail



link. Iostead of deciding oo how much those affected mainly owners of property which has lost value because of the line - should be paid, the committee has recommended that the Government create a working committee to recoo-sider the issue. The current state of the law, said the committee, "appears totally inadequate in situations in which a reductioo in the price of a property is attributable to a project such as the link even though the property will not actually be physically affected."

This will be deeply unwelcome to transport ministers who have already faced a successful complaint to the Parliamentary Ombudsman by a

group of Kent residents affected by an earlier version of the rail link route.

The alignmeol of the route can now be moved only slight--within about 80 metres - by the consortium appointed to build it. An announcement on whether Loodon & Continental, which includes Richard; Bransoo's Virgin group, or Eurorail, which includes the troubled Trafalgar House conglomerate, has won the right to build the link is expected within the oext two weeks.

The successful promoter will be expected to complete the project which will be necessary to meet anticipated, demand from rail traffic using the Channel Tunnel.

### Parents to sue hospital over death of babies

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

Some parents of babies who died after heart surgery are to sue the hospital, it emerged last night, following a report that blames senior doctors and managers for ignoring concerns raised over several years by other staff.

No individual has been disciplined, despite failures high-lighted by an internal investigation and an independent inquiry at Bristol Royal In-firmary (BRI), both published yesterday. Two surgeons in-volved in some of the deaths have given up operating on

children.
Overall, the reports found the hospital's death rate for children under one year old for the five most common open-heart surgery procedures was 18 per cent; the national figure is less than 10 per cent. When this was extended to include less common surgical procedures, the death rate rose to almost 23 per cent, twice the nadonal average.

Ninc babies died out of 13 who had an arterial "switch" done by one of the surgeons in an 18-month period to October 1993. It was stopped because of a poor success rate but was done again in January 1994. After the death of that child the Department of Health banned the op-

were six deaths among seven patients undergoing atrioveotric ular septal defect repairs carried

out by the other surgeon. The internal inquiry coocluded it was a "matter of regret that there was not an earlier in-depth and objective investigation ... to resolve concerns expressed by senior personnel" about these procedures.

Marc de Leval, a paediatric consultant at Great Ormood Street Hospital for Sick Chil-dren in London, who conducted the independent inquiry, said it was the first time such a detailed report had been published in the Britain. He concluded there was an urgent need for audit in the NHS and some mechanism to allow surgeons or institutions to assess their own performance. "It is quite possible that a number of institutions and/or surgeons have the same results [as Bris-

tol) for some conditions ... Robert McKintay, chairman of the United Bristol Health Care Trust, now incorporating the BRI, confirmed that a "small number" of parents were involved in legal action against the Trust. He would not say if the hospital would contest the action. A new surgical team is in place at Bristol Children's spital and more than 100 operations have been done.

#### Drug war fear over St Paul's killing

MICHAEL PRESTAGE

Police were last night searching. St Paul's in Bristol for gunnett, who shot and killed a man in the early hours of yesterday morning outside a notorious drug-

dealing spot.
The man was shot in the chestat point-blank range as he sal in his Golf GTI car. He died two hours later in Bristol Royal Infirmary. It was the fourth shooting in St Paul's in just over a month and reinforces fears among Avon and Somerset detectives that the district is the

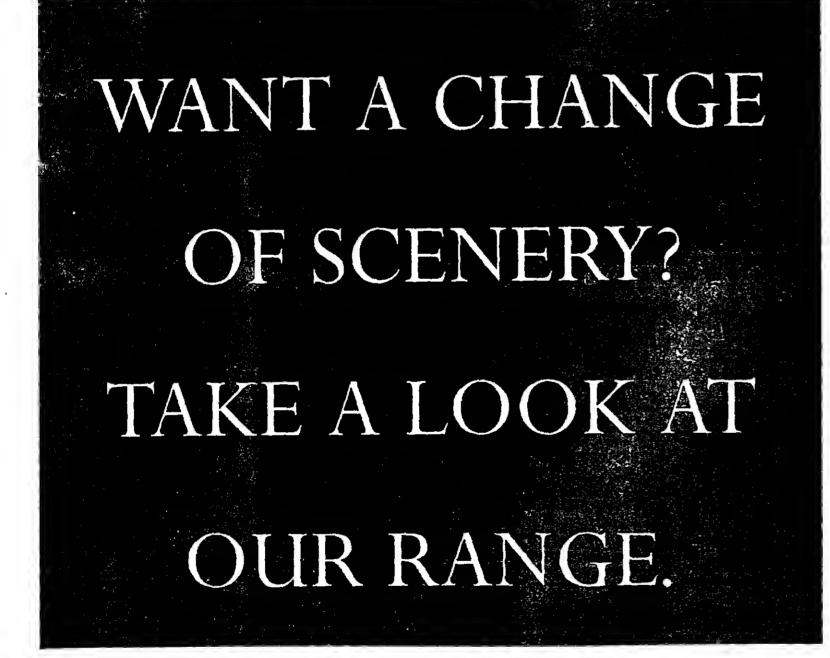
setting for a "turf war".

The victim's 22-year-old brother was shot in the leg as he stood inside the Black and White café.

Two men were seen driving away after the shooting. Police last night confirmed the incident was believed to be drug-relative. ed and were hoping to speak to the victim's brother.

While the men responsible for the shooting were thought to be local, the area has also attracted gunmen from Manichester and the West Midlands. Police investigating the mus-

der of Evon Berry, a caretaker at a St Paul's community ceptre shot dead on New Year's Day, were last night still questioning a man arrested in Citas-



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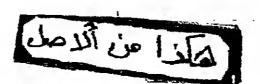
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# PC convicted of gold smuggling

المكذا عن ألاصل



may have sealed her fate

RUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY IF.

fety measures

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

A police officer was yesterday found guilty of assisting her fa-ther, a former constable, in a multi-million pound gold smuggling operation.

Lucie Gilmore, 25, who acted as a courier in a scam that netted more than £3m, hurst into tears as she was convicted. Gilmore and her father, Michael Gilmore, 53, were among a string of smugglers

- from Belgium, Knightsbridge Crown Court was told.

The bullion, in bars worth £8,000 each, was brought into Britain in cars at various channel ports. The VAT-free gold was then sold to an unsuspecting Asian community. A jewclier's shop in Handsworth, Birmingham, is thought to have been used as a front for the 18month conspiracy, in which the smugglers made £3.4m by charging customers Britain's full 17.5 per cent tax.

Lucie Gilmore, a probationary police constable, of Bridgused by an Asian gang to col-lect three tons of high purity gold bars - worth about £20m north, Shropshire, and her father now face up to seven years in prison for conspiracy to evade VAT. She will be sentenced in four weeks, along with

her fellow conspirator Surinder Kumar, 32, a Birmingham jew-er during at least four trips. By this time her father had already

The young officer's father, who admitted his part in smug-gling hullion, is due to he sentenced tomorrow, Gilmore said she intended to appeal. During her trial, the jury was told that she had always

looked up to her father and in 1992 she was accepted as a prohationary constable in the West Mercia force. However, she was hiding a criminal past.
In 1991 she decided to help

her father, who turned to gold smuggling after his firm of inmade 24 trips.

After having the precious metal in Belgium, the conspirators collected it in Luxembourg, where no value-added tax applies. A jeweller's shop in Birmingham, owned by brothers Surinder Kumar and Jeevan Kanda, is thought to have been used as a front for the gold.

Kumar, 32, described as a "prolific courier" and a "trust-ed lieutenant" 10 his older hrother, was arrested. Kanda, the "moving spirit" behind the operation, is still wanted after surance brokers became heavapparently fleeing to Dubai.

Customs investigators believed arrogance was the downfall of the pair. Gilmore had told her former boyfriend about her gold smuggling, but after he left her he threatened to expose her activities unless she repaid a £3,000 loan. Confident he would not be believed, the pair decided to called his bluff - and reported the threat to police.

Unfortunately for them, Cusioms officers had already spent months investigating the activities of other couriers. But until the pair walked into their police station in August 1994, no one had suspected their in-volvement. Days later the two

# "I am rich. There's no point denying it."



This month in Q, Damon Albarn comes clean about life in Biur: the fraught relationships, the financial rewards and his plans for a Great Escape from the Beatles of Britpop.



PLUS! Crack, kids and firefighting with

Goolio; The showbiz childhood and all-Canadian angst of Alanis Morissette; Neil Diamond on

marriage, moolah and misery, and-cue theramin!-the definitive story of the **Beach** Boys' sun-soaked '60s heyday.



ALSO! We're with the Banned! Q's guide

to the records you weren't supposed to hear. And what the hell does The National Lottery think it is?



in the world's only climate-controlled

Reviews section: Lou Reed, Thin Lizzy, Beatles, Ministry, Eazy-E. and Babyion Zoo.





### Murder in Thailand: Funeral of backpacker comes on day her killer is sentenced to execution



Laid to rest: The coffin of Johanne Masheder being carried into St Michael's Church in her home village of Wincle, Cheshire, yesterday

# Victim buried as Thai monk pleads to die

STEPHEN VINES

The Thai monk who murdered Johanne Masheder, a 23-yearold British tonrist, was sentenced to death yesterday as his victim was buried at her home village in Cheshire.

Three weeks after his arrest the Buddhist monk, Yodchat Snaphu, 21, yesterday asked the court to execute him at the site of the murder, near some caves at the tourist attraction of Kanchanaburi, close to the notorious bridge over the river Kwai where thousands of allied prisoners of war perished. He said he wanted to die

within 24 hours, a request unlikely to be granted as all death sentences in Thailand are reviewed by the King, who does not respond within such a short space of time.

The trial and sentencing was hrisk as Yodchat had pleaded guilty. Such pleas usually produce a reduced sentence but Judge Somehat Thanyavi Nichkul said that the death penalty was unavoidable because the defrocked monk had failed to reform his ways despite serving a two-and-a-half-year sentence for rape. He said the murder had damaged the rep-utation of both Thailand and the nation's religion, Buddhism.

A remorseful Yodchat spoke to reporters after the trial, apologising to Miss Masheder's parents who went to Thailand to search for her body. He said that he had not meant to commit murder but was out of control

hecause of his drug addiction. During the trial he admitted killing Miss Masheder - a newly qualified solicitor - and dumping her body in a cave. He also stole ber camera and money totalling less than £10, which he said he needed to buy drugs. Although he was not tried for the offence. Yodchat had also told the police that he was responsible for the rape of an Aus-

trian woman who wrote both to

based English language news-papers to warn other visitors of the dangers posed by a monk in Kanchanaburi. Her warnings led the police to Yodchat within a day of discovering Miss Masheder's body on 14 January. The murder followed a num-

ber of sex, corruption and criminal scandals involving That monks which have caused an uproar in this devoutly Buddhist country. Criminals have been known to enter the priesthood as a way of both shielding their The priesthood in Thailand

is more fluid that in other countries, many young men serve

the authorities and a Bangkok- some time as monks and it is common for Thais to enter and leave monasteries. There are now calls for tighter supervision of temples and monks and the government is being urged to es-tablish a national identifica-

tion system for monks. At the funeral in Wincle, Cheshire, the Rev David Moir told mourners packed into the village church that Miss Masheder had been a universally loved" young woman "of whom everyone was justly proud [and] about to set out on a well-deserved career in her chosen field".

However he said that her death on the last leg of a round-

the-world trip should not trig-ger a life of resentment and hitterness among her family. "Grief is a debilitating thing and I am sure from what I know

> want us to hold on too much to this feeling which is anyway so enslaving," said Mr Moir. After the service Mr Moir said that the death sentence would be satisfactory news to

of Johanne that she wouldn't

those who thought of God as a god of retribution. "Retribution is the normal. human, knee-jerk reaction. Hopefully you will be able to

have a more mature reaction later. It is all to do with how you think of God," said Mr Moir.

Electric eels

# Police to exhume body in serial killer inquiry

Police will today exhume the body of a man suspected to be late 1960s. The murders have long been popularly attributed to a killer, nicknamed "Bible" The early morning operation will be carried out at Stone-

house cemetery in Lanarkshire, where John Irvine McInnes was buried in a family grave in 1980. Genetic fingerprinting, carried out on a member of his family, has reportedly estab-lished a possible link between him and a woman who was

John", because of his reputed habit of quoting heavily from

the Bible in conversation. But some detectives at the time thought more than one man was responsible for the

A possible DNA link between the dead man and Ms Puttock emerged when forenkilled in 1969.

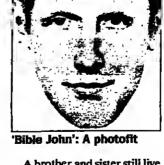
Helen Puttock was one of three women murdered after

clothing of Ms Puttock.

But no such possible evi-dence is thought to still be in existence in the case of the two other murders, and police have only said they are following "a definite line of inquiry" in the case of Ms Puttock's

Mr McInnes, who is believed to have committed suicide at the age of 41, was buried in 1980 alongside his father.

His mother, who died in 1987 at the age of 91, was



A brother and sister still live in Stonehouse, and his wife at the time was reported yesterday to be now married to a Swedish businessman and living in Saudi Arabia.

Mr McInnes' 31-year-old son

### Jails called to account for £1.6m overspend

The Prison Service faced fresh

Richard Wilson, the permanent secretary at the Home Office, Richard Tilt, the acting director-general of the Prison Service, and Brian Landers. the director of finance, will be called on to explain the overspend to the Public Accounts

up for the overspend out of bud-

nors, anxious to spend up to the limit of last year's budget, went on a last-minute spending spree. Some paid for goods and services in advance in con-

They turned a projected £20m underspend into the £1.6m overspend in just one month. Jails paid out £234m - over a tenth of their entire gets already being reduced by 5 per cent in the coming year. budgets - in March in order to

neys which harden into lumps and can cause excruciating pain while urinating.
Up to 1.5 million people in the UK aged over 25 are thought to suffer from the disorder, which can lead to com-

> the genetic flaw causes the failure of a biochemical system which controls the movement of negatively-charged ions inside the kidneys. This means that positively-charged calcium ions are not dissolved into the urine.

anism is used by electric eels to generate shocks: they shift negatively-charged ions rapidly around inside their cells to create a voltage, which is then used to ward off predators and stun prey. If an eel had the same

who led the team of scientists, suming there was a genetic basis, and looked for evidence." After interviewing 64 patients and 118 relatives from 11 families, the team determined that the cause was sex-linked; it is at the Royal Postgraduate Medthree times more common in ical School in London has dismen than in women. Also, if a man has kidney stones, his sons have a 45 per cent chance of

developing them too. Because the flaw is on a gene on the X chromosome. it is more likely to show up in men, who only have one such chromosome. Women have two and so would need two faulty versions of the gene to develop the disorder.

The scientists' conclusion could lead to the development of drugs to treat the disorder. and should help doctors to predict the likelihood of patients relatives developing the stones.

"What we really need now is to talk to more people ..." said Professor Thakker, "We think there may be up to ten [genes] involved, and we want to know just what part they all play." He added that the chances of stones recurring are between 70 and 80 per cent. "That's what makes it so important to really

In the meantime, the best way to prevent the disorder is to avoid hard water - which contains high levels of calcium

# Dirilg wal

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fear over St Pauls\* killing

being picked up at Glasgow's modern techniques.

DAILY POEM Time toppies Statyllios like a doddery oak

Time topples Statyllios like a doddery oak.

Death hauls the old queen off, but before he goes, he solemnly dedicates to the God of Cock:

his suntiner frocks dyed Dayglo puce one shoulder-length, blonde, greasy lacquered wig two glittering, sequined, high-heeled shoes an overnight-grip stuffed full of drag and flutes sail smelling of cachous and booze.

Epigrams, inscriptions in verse to a god bearing a list of things that the dedicator intended to provide, were common in ancient Greece. This remade of the form was written by an un-

cient Greece. This parody of the form was written by an un-known called Myrinos (1st Century) for his friend and fellow party goer Statellies. It is one of the poems that appears, trans-lated by Tony Harrison, in an anthology of 99 Poems in Trans-lation edited by Harried Pinter, Anthony Astbury and Geoffrey Godbert and published by Faber at £7.99.

# buried in the same family grave. lives in Berkshire.

embarrassment yesterday when independent auditors found it could not balance its books - allowing governors to overspend their budgets by more than £1.6m, writes Heather Mills.

Committee in two weeks time. Jails will now have to make

the Comptroller and Auditor General, said there had been "a breakdown in the monitoring and control of expenditure by the Prison Service" It appears that prison gover-

travention of government rules.

beat the 1 April deadline.

#### spark hope on kidney stones **CHARLES ARTHUR** Science Correspondent British scientists have discov-

ered why electric eels do not get kidney stones but humans - and especially men – do. After six years' work, a team

covered that a flaw in a gene on the female X chromosome leads to kidney stones - pre-cipitates of calcium in the kid-

plete kidney failure and costs millions of pounds every year in operations and treatments. The researchers found that

A similar biochemical mech-

pin the causes down," he said. genetic flaw as humans, it would lose its ability to give shocks. Professor Rajesh Thakker, - and dairy products.

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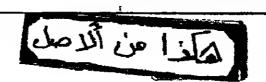
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# Monklands problem refuses to go away

**JOHN ARLIDGE** and JOHN RENTOUL

Labour hopes of drawing the line under persistent allegations of nepotism and corruption in Monklands council were dashed yesterday when Jim Brooks, the council leader, threatened to challenge the suspension of 15 councillors in the courts.

The party's National Executive Committee, meeting in London, decided to suspend the 15 from holding party office or

chairing council committees. turn the decision. I have done A spukesman said the decision to reinforce disciplinary action taken last year - was taken because there had been "mismanagement" by the council.

But last year a Scoutsh Office inquiry eleared the councillors of allegations of favouritism and reserving council jobs for friends and relatives. Mr Brooks told the Indepen-

George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, and Hedent: "As soon as I receive the len Liddell, the MP for formal notification of the Monklands East, welcomed the NEC's decision, I will be seekruling, which they said "drew a ing legal advice to try to overline" under the long-running

nuthing wrong."
The NEC barred council

leader Jim Brooks and 14 col-

leagues from hulding any coun-

eil or Labour group post during

the first session of the new

North Lanarkshire council,

which takes over from Monk-

lands council in April.

"Monklandsgate" scandal, unjustified and oppressive. This is time for new begin-Mrs Liddell said.

But last night Mr Brooks said he would not accept the decision, raising the spectre of more embarrassment for Lahour north of the border. He said that at least 10 of the 15 Monklands councillors elected to the new council were also planning legal challenges. They argue that after an official government inquiry cleared them of the allegations, any disciplinary action hy the Lahour Party is

Tony Blair suspended the

Labour group last year after a report commissioned by the party by Prof Robert Black OC alleged nepotism and sectarian discrimination. But a government inquiry, conducted hy William Nimmo Smith QC found there had been no malpractice. Among the allegations were

claims that the mainly Catholic group of councillors operated a privileged channel for job ap-plications, and had favoured the

mainly Catholic town of Coathridge over mainly Protestant Airdrie when it came to spendng decisions.

Dennis Skinner, the left-wing MP and NEC member, said vesterday that he had always maintained that the allegations were won the seat for Labour, quesfalse. It was not surprising in close communities that a "handful" of council wurkers, out of over 2,000 employees, were related to councillors.

The late John Smith, the Labour leader and Monklands East MP, faced accusations throughout his leadership that he had failed to act to clear up his own backyard, and the controversy dominated the byelection after his death. The party's Scottish leadership and Helen Liddell, who narrowly

tioned spending policies. The issue has been ruthlessly exploited by the Conservatives, leading to Labour charges that Ian Lang, the former Secretary of State for Scotland, deliberately avoided carrying out an official inquiry hecause

it suited Tory party interests. Labour leaders were delighted when the Scottish Office's belated inquiry failed to turn up evidence of serious wrongdoing, and hoped that public opinion had turned when Dover MP David Shaw turning up at the inquiry to repeat well-known charges. But the threat of a legal challenge to the party's disciplinary action raises the spectre of the stream of unfavourable stories, which has lasted for three years, continuing up to the general election.

# Labour victory could delay **IGC** summit

SARAH HELM

A future Labour government would insist the conclusion of the Inter-Governmental Conference on European reform be delayed until at least six months after it is elected, to give a new Labour leadership time to finetune its European policies.

Such a delay would mean that the IGC, which begins next month, could stretch out for nearly two years, not ending until December 1997 - under the presidency of Luxembourg.

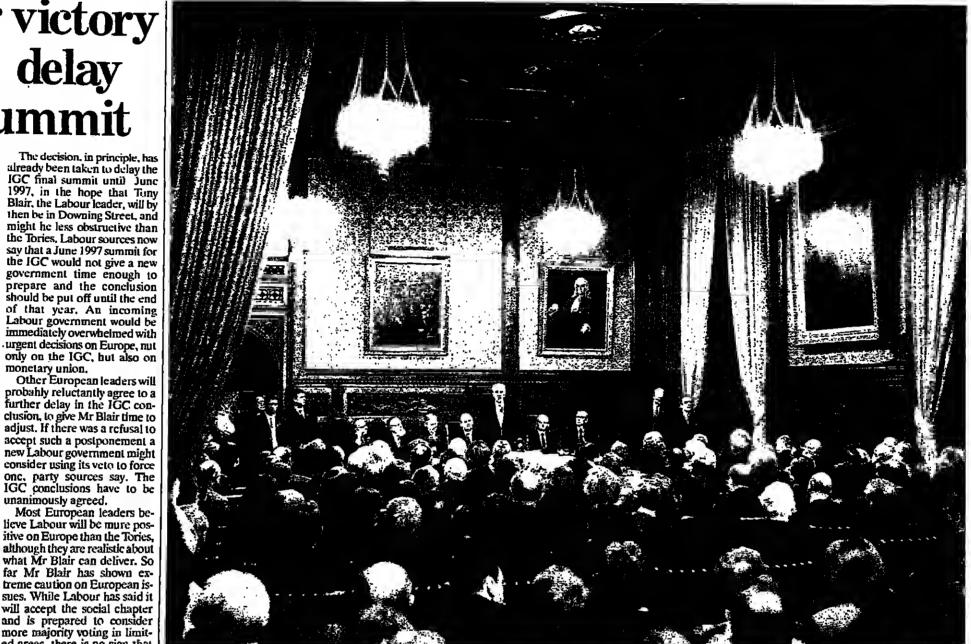
The conference, sometimes called Maastricht II, is expected to be just as controversial as the first Maastricht event. The final conclusions will test Europe's commitment to deeper integration and the preceding negotiations will raise a range of highly sensitive issues for Britain. On the agenda will be issues which gu to heart of national sovereignty, including use of the national veto and powers of the European Par-

It was originally envisaged that the IGC would conclude in 1996, which would almost certainly have been during the term of the present Conservative government. However. Britain's European partners have already acknowledged that li de progress can be made at se IGC given John Major's deon several fronts.

The decision, in principle, has already been taken to delay the IGC final summit until Junc 1997, in the hope that Tuny Blair, the Labour leader, will by then be in Downing Street, and might he less obstructive than the Tories, Labour sources now say that a June 1997 summit for the IGC would not give a new government time enough to prepare and the conclusion should be put off until the end of that year. An incoming Labour government would be immediately overwhelmed with .urgent decisions on Europe, nut

monetary union. Other European leaders will probably reluctantly agree to a further delay in the IGC conclusion, to give Mr Blair time to adjust. If there was a refusal to accept such a postponement a new Labour government might consider using its veto to force onc, party sources say. The IGC conclusions have to be unanimously agreed.

Most European leaders believe Labour will be mure positive on Europe than the Tories, although they are realistic about what Mr Blair can deliver. So far Mr Blair has shown extreme caution on European issues. While Labour has said it will accept the social chapter and is prepared to consider more majority voting in limited areas, there is no sign that pro-European track.



Major paid tribute to the success of the Palestinian elections after talks with Mr Peres at Downing Street

#### Talks to include elections

**COLIN BROWN** Chief Political Correspondent

British ministers will seek to reassure the Irish government today at a summit in London that plans for early elections in Ulster are in line with recommendations for disarming the IRA, made by the international body under US Senator George Mitchell,

Sir Patrick Maybew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will try to overcome Duhlin's opposition to the elections plan in a meeting with Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister.

John Major will later meet David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, as part of an urgent round of talks with party leaders to keep the peace process on track. The Prime Minister last night met Ian Paisley, the DUP leader, to discuss the plan for an elected

body, leading to all-party talks. The Unionists have proposed that the body could last for two years, hut after talks with John Hume, the SDLP leader, who is opposed to the plan, Mr Maor is keen to ensure that the Unionists will accept a timelimited body.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, yesterday underlined Irish anxieties about the plan in the Dail by urging the British Government to stick to the Mitchell commission report, which suggested that the decommissioning of IRA weapons Photograph: Brian Hams I time as all-party talks.

ins de. he si-

# Rifkind takes Blair to task on EU social chapter 'opt-in'

**Economics Editor** 

Tony Blair's claim that Britain could safely opt in to the the European social chapter was "at best disingenuous, at worst dishonest", Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, told top in-

In a hard-hitting attempt to counter Labour's charm offensive with hig husiness, he said that accepting the social chap-ter would damage industry and threaten Britain's wealth and prosperity.

However, a spokesman for the Labour leader later said that Mr Rifkind's portrayal of the effect of signing up to the social chapter was misleading and

wrong. The dispute erupted after Mr Rigand took Mr Blair to task for a speech he made last year to the Confederation of British Industry's conference. The Labour leader used the

Labour yesterday approved the

machinery for fighting a long

general election campaign, as

the pany's National Executive

Committee approved a blue-

print drawn up at a manage-

ment school to assign staff to 11 flexible and non-hierarchical

To clear the way for the cam-paign, the NEC also decided

unanimously to abandon the le-

gal bande to save its policy of re-serving half of winnable

parliamentary seats for women.

JOHN NOW FROM

JUST 236

JOHN RENTOUL

taskforces".

choosing candidates.

The "project-based" task-

force structure is designed to

"huild a machine which is ca-

pable of delivering a first-class

general election campaign", ac-

cording to a document pre-

sented by party general secretary Tom Sawyer.

and targets" for 1996, was drawn

up using ideas on "project man-

agement techniques" studied

by a group of NEC members at

The document, on "priorities

ciples rather than detailed leglation, and that he had no intention uf agreeing to "anything and everything that emerges from the EU".

Addressing the CBI Council, Mr Rifkind said that this argument was fallacious.



Rifkind: Hard-hitting attack

Labour 'taskforces' to tackle election

social chapter, won at Maastricht in 1991, was a source of competitive advantage.

By signing up to the social chapter, Britain could subsequently he overruled by other European countries, under the system of qualified majority voting, in a number of key social policies such as health and safety and working conditions.

If Mr Blair did not know that, said Mr Rifkind, "then he has not done his homework. If he does know it, he should have admitted it."

Furthermore, said the Foreign Secretary, Lahour was committed to removing the right of veto in areas of social policy, including social security and redundancy, where unanimous voting was currently stipulated.

said that he stood by his speech. The social chapter was not a currently covered by unanimipredetermined list of costly

This will allow the speedy completion of the stalled process of new "mission statement", one of tion strategy across all media"

the key goals of which is "se-

curing victory at the next general

election", and says: "To ensure

we achieve our goal, we have put

in place a radical new structure

that is flexible and responsive."

media monitoring officers,

members of the Media task-

force, to "monitor broadcast and

print media 24 hours a day and

spot opportunities for Labour".

the Cranfield School of Man- jection, charged with achieving sentation on the NEC.

Other taskforces include Pro-

Britain's "opt-out" from the for determining European wide

By signing up to it, Britain had the chance to influence proposals rather than simply have them imposed by multinationals. Labour had specifically ruled out extending qualified majority voting to social security. To date, the only significant directive to have emerged from the social chapter is the legislation for European transnationals to set up consultative

works councils. Embarrassingly for the Government, a number of British firms, including Coats Viyella, BP Oil and United Biscuits. have elected to implement this directive in the Britain.

The only other directive currently in the pipeline is one on parental leave. A spokesman for the European Commission said A spokesman for Mr Blair that a further extension of qualified majority voting to areas ty would require a change to the

> tion strategy across all media", Rapid Response, to provide "campaign information and re-

> buttal to politicians and the par-

ty" and Key Campaigners, to

back up leading Labour politi-

cians and "establish a database

The document, which also

looks at how to strengthen the

relationship between a Labour

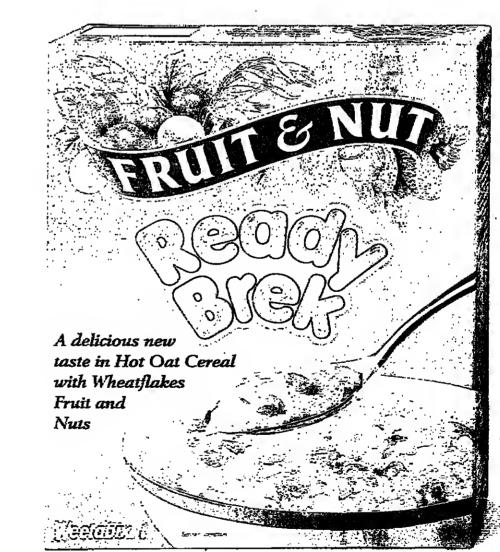
government and the party,

promises measures expected

to reduce trade union repre-

Labour advertised on Mon- of endorsements from the husi-

day for six staff, including three ness, art and sports world".



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grown-up appetite.

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### Thames safety moves accepted

PETER VICTOR

The Department of Transport has accepted most of the 12 recommendations made by the Marchioness inquest jury to im-prove safety on the River

Thames A total of 51 people lost their lives when the small party boat Marchioness was struck by the gravel barge Bowbelle in

the early hours of 20 August ping minister Lord Goschen

deaths returned a verdict of unlawful killing last April, and the jury recommended 12 safety improvements, ranging from the increased provision of lifeboats senger launch crew – including bar staff – to wear inflatable lifeto an alcohol limit for scamen

Responding to a Parliamen- would not be practicable to tary question yesterday, ship- do so.

said that the DoT had accept-The second inquest into the ed the majority of the recommendations. But the Department rejected the jury's call for all pas-

jackets at all times while the craft was waterborne, saying it

**⊘ ⊕** ⊕ ●

# UK ready to challenge aid for poor of Europe

Britain is threatening to ask the European Court of Justice to stop the Brussels Commission spending money on projects aimed at helping the poor, such as a controversial scheme for the

rehabilitation of prostitutes. Stephen Wall, Britain's permanent representative to the European Union, has written to the Commission accusing it of spending money on combating social exclusion without any "legal base." Unless the Comsion justifies its action by the



Padraig Flynn: Project is

end of February, the letter strongly implies that the Government would take the Commission to the European Court.

The Government argues that the projects, costing a total of 9m ecus (£7m), have not been agreed under the EU hudget and are an underhand attempt by the Commission to take new powers, particularly in the so-cial policy field. The objectioo is an attempt to ensure good book-keeping, British officials

A hroader programme against social "exclusion" has already been blocked by the Council of Ministers, after objections not only from Britain, but Germany. Officials in Brussels, however, argue that these particular projects are allowed last night.

under the broader programme. The British threat is another attempt to undermine support programmes aimed at combat-ing the spread of a European underclass, they contend.

The British move coincides with new government attacks on the European Social Chapter which are seen in Brussels as part of a pre-election drive to curry favour with Tory Eurosceptics. "The Conservatives do not want European action to tackle poverty. That is why the British government is opposed to the programme for comhating social exclusion," said Ter-Wynn, a Labour member of he European Parliament and

hudget committee spokesman. The Commission published its proposals to combat pover-ty 10 days ago. A total of 86 pro-jects were outlined which Padraig Flynn, the commissioner for social affairs, said were "innovative and creative".

It proposed giving grants to small groups helping disadvantaged people with very specific problems. However, the ultra-liberal colour of the programme was bound to raise the hackles of Conservative

Several of the projects listed were straightforward, such as helping prisoners and longterm unemployed reintegrate into normal life. However, also included were less mainstream proposals such as a plan to offer "social integration to very poor travelling families" or to "integrate former prostitutes into the labour market".

The latter plan provoked screams of horror from the Tory press. The Daily Telegraph ran a leading article headlined The Whores of Brussels" which officials in Brussels described as "sick".

"The British often appear to care more about the welfare of animals than for the disadvantaged and the poor," said a Commission spokesman



# Fanatical Tamils take revenge for Jaffna

TIM McGIRK New Delhi

That a bomb should explode yesterday in Colombo surprised nobody. Ever since the Sri Lankan army took the Tamil Tiger rebel strongbold in Jaffna in December after a 50-day battle, it seemed inevitable that the Tigers would strike back with their favourite weapon: the suicide bomber.

Sri Lanka cannot armourplate itself against these Tamil fanatics who are willing to blow themselves up along with whatever target their commanders select: a politician, a few.generals, a president, oil depots, a naval vessel, and now dozens of innocent office workers. No country can, certainly not poor Sri Lanka, its treasury emptied by 12 years of civil war against the Tamil minority.

Other suicide bombers will undoubtedly be dispatched to Colombo by the Tamil Tigers' chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran. after he treats them to a final supper at his jungle hideout. It might be weeks before they arrive, or just days. But the residents of Colombo know they will come to kill. The security forces in Colom-

bo are tied down protecting government officials, most notably the President, Chandrika Kumaratunga, whose home is now a fortress ringed in barbedwire and an anti-aircraft gun on the roof. Overstretched already, the police cannot protect Colombo's citizens. News agencies reported that hundreds fled Colombo yesterday, fearing that another suicide bomber might be stalking the city. The easiest exit from this nightmare is for Mrs Ku-

SRI LANKA

maratunga to make peace with the Tamil rebels. The biggest obstacle to a deal has always been the Tigers' fanatical leadership. who have nothing to gain from peace. But for a few weeks after their defeat in Jaffna, hopes rose for a settlement. Not any longer, however. Few among the 400,000 Tamils who were made

refugees by the fighting in Jaffna have returned to their area "liberated" by the government. Even if ordinary Tamils wanted to, the Tiger rebels will not allow them to go back to their towns and rice paddies.

Mrs Kumaratunga's strategy was to strike at the rebels and then offer a political solution: a devolution package which would give the predominately Tamil states in the north and east of the island more autonomy.

But extremists among the country's Sinhalese majority refuse to let her be generous to the Tamik. To get the devolution plan through parliament and then a referendum, she has watered it down so much that eveo moderate Tamils are backing away from her.

Under the new draft, Colombo will keep the right to dissolve the regional councils and police

the regions, which the Tigers will

never allow. Many of the Tamils, who are either Hindus

or Christians, are also alarmed that the devolution package seems to give extra favours to the Sinhalese Buddhist clergy. Militarily, the Tamil Tigers are far from defeated. Not only can they deploy their suicide bombers inside the heart of Colombo, but the Tiger com-

manders have stepped up their attacks along the eastern coast. Even in the supposedly secure Jaffna peninsula. Tiger sharpsbooters were reported to have brought down ooe of the air force's few helicopters, killing all 39 people aboard. At one point, Mrs Kumaratunga was even prepared to offer Tamil rebels an amnesty, but after yesterday's massacre in Colombo, such a move would outrage the Sin-

# Nazi era grave found in **Austria**

ADRIAN BRIDGE Central Europe Correspondent

Austrians have had a chilling reminder of the country's Nazi past with the discovery of a massgrave containing the remains of what were almost certainly lewish victims of the Holocaust.

The grave was discovered late on Thesday by labourers working on a new power plant near the town of Lambach. It is close to the site of Gunskirchen. a satellite of the Mauthausen concentration eamp. It contains the skeletons of 10 men aged between 19 and 22. According to the Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal, the victims were probably Hungarian lews who perished on one of the death marches between concentration camps in the last few weeks of the war.

All building work on the site was halted yesterday as gov-ernment officials and Jewisherperts tried to establish who the dead were and whether there were any more remains in the area. If it is confirmed that the victims were Jewish, the power plant project could be in jeopardy as according to Jewish rite bodies should not be disinterred or reburied.

"A Jewish cemetery is a cemetery for eternity," spid Paul Grosz, President of Austria's small surviving Jewish community. "The peace of the dead cannot simply be forgot-ten and subordinated to existing or perceived necessities." The company building the hydro power plant promised to treat the dead with "adequate piety", but said it saw no reason to abandon the project.

The proposed power plant has been the source of bitter controversy for years, with ecological groups arguing that it was both unnecessary and a threat to wildlife and woodland.

According to Mr Wiesenthal there were more than 100 mass graves in Austria, some containing more than 1,000 bodies. Many were uncerthed in the years immediately after the war. But some, like that believed to have been found at Lamback. oever came to light as Austrian collectively sought to suppless the memory of their participa-tion in the Nazi regime.

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£50,000+	6.30%	4.73%
£25,000+	6.30%	4.73%
£5,000 (MINIMUM)+	6.20%	4.65%
	INTEREST PAID	MONTHLY
£100,000+	6.17%	4.63%
£50,000+	6.13%	4.59%
£25,000+	6.13%	4.59%
£5,000 (MINIMUM)+	6.03%	4.52%

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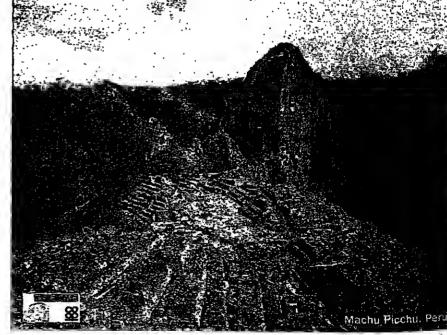
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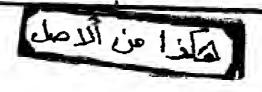
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ing your answer, name, and dress and telephone number to: The Independent/Fly Now Pay Never Day 11, PO Box 7298, London E14 9EG by no tater than 3 February 1996. The winner will be picked at random after entry closes, from all correct entrants.



# international

Turkish police

# US cools Aegean islands clash

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A four-day confrontation between Turkey and Greece, both Nato members, over ownership of an outcrop of rocks in the Aegean Sea was brought to a peaceful end yesterday by the elephone diplomacy of the American trouble-shooter Richard Holhrooke.

Calling repeatedly from Washington, he turned his negotiating skills from Bosnia on to the conflict over three harren football-pitch-sized Aegean

Pressure to disengage was and withdraw troops. Greece comed that, it's a victory for also put on both sides by President Bill Clinton and the US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, the British Defence Scerctary, Malcolm Rifkind, and the UN and Nato secretaries-general.

The crisis over the outcrops known as Imia in Greek and Kardak in Turkish -- ended in the early hours of yesterday. The only casualties were the threeman crew of a Greek helicopter, missing after it crashed. Both sides agreed to remove their flags, pull back 20-odd war-

sent nine soldiers to an island on Sunday, while Turkey landed 12 commandos on its neighbour vesterday. Turkish leaders presented

ships, stop warplane sorties original position, so we wel-

the commando action as the event that forced Greece to reconsider its position. After a night on the rocks, the Turkish troops stepped triumphantly off their inflatable attack craft to the cheers of local fishermen. "There is no agreement as

such. We were informed of the

Greek intention to withdraw to

the status one ante. This was our

Omer Akhel. Turkey's caretaker Foreign Minister, Deniz Baykal, spoke of a victorious outcome, but the Greek and Turkish governments were attacked by their opponents at home for having given way. The quarrel flared last week

common sense," said the Turk-

ish fureign ministry spokesman,

when a Greek television station showed an Orthodox priest leading a delegation on to the outcrop to plant the Greek flag. A Turkish media group then sent in a helicopter on Saturday with reporters who took down the blue and white Greek flag and raised a red and white star and crescent. Next day, the Greek navy arrived. In Athens, the Greek De-

fence Minister, Gerassimos Arsenis, defended the withdrawal accord as the best possible course of action. "The firepower was immense and any incident could have led to all-out war. We are returning to the status hefore the crisis," he said. But the conservative opposition demanded that the new Greek government of Costas Simitis resign. "The removal of Greek

Greek flag constitute an act of treason," Militadis Evert, leader of the New Democracy party. told parliament.

Mr Baykal said he hoped Greece would agree to sit down and negotiate over 1,000 rocky outcrops that dot the Aegean Sea between Greek islands and the Turkish mainland. Ankara thinks international law favours it over outcrops closer to the Turkish shore than the Greek mainland, like Imia/Kardak. Athens, however, says that the 1947 agreement under which Italy ceded the Dodecanese troops and the lowering of the gives everything to Greece.

'tortured by colleagues'

the Turkish media have taken on the security forces and won an important victory in a battle to end the torture, disappearances and murders that have stained Turkey's human rights record, writes Hugh Pope. A sustained campaign has

forced the Turkish government to suspend 15 riot police after an investigation found that a left-wing photo-journalist, Metin Goktepe, 27, had been beaten to death in police custody in Istanbul on 8 January. There were even accusations that police had been torturing other policemen to find out what happened to Goktepe.

One policeman, Coskun Ozturk, told a television station: They called us over to headquarters. Then the fists and ounches came. They hit my chest and back and head." Both investigators and Goklepe's newspaper. Errensel,

doubted Mr Ozturk's claims. But he struck a chord and the airwaves filled with police calls of protest to superiors.

"Distressing practices have distressing results. It looks like the police are sharing in this distress," said Turkey's minister of state for human rights, Adnan Ekmen. But the Goktepe affair, said Mujgan Atilgan, news editor at Evrensel, has been "a turning point. It is the first time such a 'mystery murder' has been solved like this. And

Istanbul — For the first time, stopped harassing journalists so

The affair proved the new power of Turkey's media, especially the 15 national television channels. Unlike the cases of more than 40 journalists killed in the past five years the media did not tet go of the story. Police chiefs and ministers were forced to squirm on television as they rehearsed official claims that Goktepe had "not been detained", "fell off a wall" or "collapsed on a park bench". But witnesses soon told the true story.

The caretaker Prime Minister. Tansu Ciller, who sent a secret order to police stations a year ago to try to put a brake on torture, quickly ordered the truth to be exposed. But expo-sure is all that has happened so far to the 15 policemen who were suspended and another 40 under investigation.

There is also doubt about how far the government wants to go against the police, whom Mrs Ciller described as "the people's darlings". The police have improved, hut Mrs Ciller's claim that Goktepe's killing was the result of "individual acts" seems absurd in the light of information from the Ankara-hased Human Rights Foundation, which reported that in 1994, 32 people died of torture in detention. Another 49 disap-peared, presumed dead, while



oing cheep: People in Budapest reach for chickens being given away yesterday by Hungarian farmers protesting over subsidy changes

Photograph: Laszlo Balogh/Reuter | the police have certainly

# No happy birthday for the President

HIL REEVES

ris Yeltsin is 65 today, a irthday most Russians regard an opportunity for a big pary, if only because it is six years love the national average life weether for a man. But there will be no fireworks in Red square, no official hanquet. The President has precious lit-

to celebrate. Aides say he plans to mark the occasion quietly with his family. As he does so he will have ample opportunity to reflect on the problems gripping his administration. With less than five months to a presidential election, Mr Yeltsin is becoming increasingly isolated. Evidence has yet to emerge

that his latest efforts to salvage his flagging fortunes - by tossing out liberals from his goverament, cracking down on Chechen political activism and promising to throw money at Russia's poor - have won him ny new friends.

But there are plenty of signs hey have lost him old ones. Al-

Yeltsin's juggling act: Problems mount in run-up to poll

most all Russia's liberal-leaning pro-reform factions hoot with laughter if you say "Yeltsin" and "Democrat" in the same breath, despite President Bill Clinton's insistence that his old friend is still a committed reformer. "He has lost all the credentials of a democratic candidate," said Sergei Kolmakov, a political

One reformer after another has severed ties with the President, including four members of his defunct advisory body, the Presidential Council, who resigned in protest over his move towards authoritarianism. But none made more of an impact than Sergei Kovalyov, who quit last week as head of Mr Yeltsin's human-rights commission. He fired off an open letter to his ex-boss, published yesterday in the Moscow Times, which stands as a measure of the chasm between Mr Yeltsin and the pro-reform lobby.

It was naive to think democrats remained in power in the Kremlin, he said. Mr Yeltsin had



Yeltsin: Birthday boy with little to celebrate

"virtually halted judicial reform", granted "exceptional extra-legal authority" to the security services, engaged in a "shameful and hungled civil war" in Chechnya, blocked military reforms, signed secret decreated closed crees. institutions and become increasingly dependent on spies for his information. "You began your democrat-

ic career as a forceful and energetic crusader against official deceit and party disposition," wrote Mr Kovalyov, "hut you are ending it as the obedient executor of the will of the powerseekers in your entourage.

And there are plenty of these. Although a few liberals still lurk fearfully in the shadows of the administration, Mr Yellsin's inner circle is dominated by hawkish former apparatchiks and security men, whose company the President has always preferred to that of the whizz-kid economists and academics who accompanied the first wave of post-Soviet euphoria. For all this, the battle is not

yet lost for Mr Yeltsin, who appears certain to run for a second term, although he has not formally declared his candidacy. His national power base looks alarmingly thin, little more than a scattering of those Russians who have made money through free-market reforms (legally or illegally) and officials loath to lose office.

But he may yet be able to win a place in an election run-off, using a combination of an advertising blitz, media controls (to the detriment of his opponents) and more promises of pay-outs. This could pitch him against the ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, not a likely winner, or the front-runner, the Communist leader.

Gennady Zyuganov. But he taces a daunting tast His problems do not stop at a shattered economy, a disastrous war, dismal ratings, a possible banking crisis, strikes over delayed wages by teachers and miners (who plan to walk out today), and heart problems. If a recent article by his former chief of staff, Sergei Filatov, is to be believed, there is even more division in the Kremlin than hitherto realised. Yet Mr Filatov urges the democrats to rally round Mr Yeltsin, say-ing he is ultimately their best option. With friends like that, Mr Yeltsin scarcely needs enemies. Unfortunately for him, as his lonely hirthday testifies, he has

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#### German poll shows deep fears of EMU tricht timetable are likely to trade unions to join a "pact of

TONY BARBER Europe Editor

In another blow to the European Union's plans to create a single currency, an opinion poll published yesterday suggested four out of five Germans oppose monetary union or want to de-lay k beyond the 1999 deadline myosed by the Maastricht nriosed by the Maastricht treaty. According to the Forsa institute's survey, published in the Hamburg weekly Dic Woche, 43 per cent of Germans do not want a single currency,

the launch date beyond January 1999, and only 10 per cent want to stick to the Maastricht schedule.

It was one of the highest levels of scepticism about monetary union ever recorded in Germany, and indicated that the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, will have an uphill task in persuading public opin-ion to embrace the Euro, as the single currency was christened last December.

Many Germans suspect the

41 per cent want to postpone Euro may be weaker than the mark. They are not convinced by Mr Kohl's argument that monetary union will be good for business and jobs.

The poll was published as France's labour ministry announced unemployment had risen in December to 11.7 per cent from 11.5 per cent in October, the last recorded month. More than 3 million French are without work. Among people under 25 the unemployment rate has risen to 23.2 per cent. French critics of the Maas-

seize on the figures as proof that it is more important to create new johs than stickto the treaty's terms. Supporters of the Euro say France's high unemployment is caused by structural problems in the economy and has little to do with the con-

straints imposed by Maastricht. Responding to concern over the implications of monetary union for jobs, the European Commission President, Jacques Santer, appealed yesterday to governments, husinessmen and

and competitiveness. He suggested pumping Ihn ecu (£820m) into trans-European highway and rail projects, and 700m ecu into job-creating research ventures. Rejecting proposals to delay the Maastricht deadline or re-

confidence" to promote jobs

plenty of them too.

lax the requirement for low budget deficits, he said: "We have to stay the course. The single currency is the end of an irreversible process. These policies are not against employment."

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Judge reluctant to move bomb trial

Oklahoma City — The judge in the Oklahoma City bombing case cast doubt on the wisdom

of moving the trial to Lawtor, about 90 miles away, saying there were "obvious deficiencies" in the courthouse there

US District Judge Bichard Matsch directed the defence

and prosecution to prepare lists

of changes that would have to

be made at the courthouse be-

fore it could hold the trial. A-

torneys for Timothy McVeign

and Terry Nichols, accused if the bombing of a federal build-ing last April, in which 169 peo-ple died, want the trial movel

out of Oklahoma City in the in-

Milan — Magistrates callel

for Silvio Berlusconi to be sen

for trial on charges of illegally channelling hribes from his companies to Bettino Craxi,

the disgraced former prime

minister. The request is a fur-

ther blow to Mr Berlusconi's hopes of returning to high of-

fice. He spent a turbulent sev-

en months as prime minister in

Sarajevo - Marking another

step in the implementation of the peace agreement, a special assembly elected Croat and

Muslim ministers to run the fed-

eration that will share Bosnia

with the Serbs. They will be in

charge of the economy, trade, culture and education within the

federation of Muslims and federation of trouble Croats that will control 51 per

Referendum pledge

Melbourne - Well ahead if opinion surveys less than five

weeks before a 2 March general

election, the opposition Liber-

al-National coalition promised

to hold a referendum or

whether Australia should be-

Berlin - A court convicted

Alexander Schalck-Golof-

kowski, whose shady hard cm-

rency deals kept Communit-

East Germany affoat, for Coll

War arms smuggling offences

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### international

# Parents fight to keep all-white school

The authorities in South Africa's Northern Province have given a primary school m the rural town of Potgietersrus until tomorrow to opeo its doors to three six-year-old black children who have been barred from attending for more than a

Last Wednesday the pupils found their way blocked by 200 white parents screaming threats in Afrikaans. They have maintained a vigil at the gates of the Potgietersrus Primary School ever since. They deny racist mo-tives, and insist they are trying to protect the school's cultural and religious standards from non-Afrikaans-speaking chil-

dren who might flood in and lower the quality of education.

The provincial government is oot buying it. "Those three children were enrolled by the school's principal himself," said a spokesman, Jack Mokohi. In the past, the school has accepted white, English-speaking students without so much as a peep. The excuse now of protecting culture and language is nothing more than a smokescreen for racism."

If the school does not admit Province will get a court order to force it to do so. An earlier deadline yesterday was apparently extended at the request of the school board of governors, to help cool tempers.

Some people fear con-frontation in Potgieters us may end in bloodshed and barden attitudes between hlack South Africans and Afrikaners. "So far we have worked very hard and succeeded in keeping this a peaceful struggle," said Daan van der Merwe, a spokesman for the governors. "The parents do not want violence. But there can be, as you know, in any Afrikaner community, extremists. There is no guarantee if the government forces the school to

take children against its will that these people might not react." Mr van der Merwe said the school had not refused cotry to children because they were black, but because it was full. "We have turned down appli-cations from white and black studeots. But we are suspected hecause we turned away blacks," he said. The school would admit black children but only in numbers the school could accommodate, and parents wanted guarantees they would respect the school's "Afrikaner, Christian character".

Non-racial education was introduced after all-race elections in April 1994 but some schools, known as "Model C". are still under white control because parents in effect own

about 120 miles north of Pre-toria, is the latest test of wills between the government of President Nelson Mandela and right-wing Afrikaners over the pace and form of change. The government is committed to integrating once-exclusive white institutions, while Afrikaners

resent their loss of privilege.
Mr Mandela yesterday reassured representatives of 13 Afrikaans women's groups in Pretoria that Afrikaners had no reason to worry. Their rights were protected under the con-stitution, and there was no plan to eradicate their language. Schools in Afrikaans areas could continue instruction in Afrikaans but had to provide classes in other languages where

it was necessary. He said Afrikaners had to be careful not to let efforts to protect their language and culture be seen as an attempt to drag the country back into the era of white domination.

Johannesburg — Louis Far-rakhan, leader of the militant

US hlack Muslim group, Natioo of Islam, met Winnie Mandela yesterday and praised her contribution to the anti-apartheid movement, AP reports. "As you well know, she is well liked both in this country and in America," Mr Farrakhan said of Mrs Mandela, who is estranged from her husband.



Integrated: South African schoolchildren. Some schools remain under white control

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### Oregon by-election win heartens Clinton camp

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

President Bill Clinton and his party received an early electionyear fillip yesterday as the Democrats woo a vacant Senate seat in Oregon, breaking a three-decade Republican mocopply in the state and rekindling hopes of recapturing at least partial control of Congress in November.

The oarrow victory by Ron Wyden, a liberal congressman, came in the first US election conducted entirely by post. It was held to find a successor to Bob Packwood, who resigned in disgrace from the Senate last summer on charges of sexual ha-rassment. Mr Wyden defeated his Republican opponent, the conservative businessman Gor-don Smith, by a margin of 17,000 votes, or 1 per cent of the total ballot.

Despite the closeness of the outcome, the White House and Democratic strategists were ex-ultant yesterday, hailing it as further proof of the unpopularity of the Republican-controlled Congress, and another sign that President Clinton will win a

PRESIDENTIAL second term. The result clips the

Republican majority in the Senate to 53-47.

More heartening still for De-mocrats, Mr Wyden pitched his campaign on the very issues Mr Clinton will highlight this autumn - the protection of education, the environment and free medical services for the poor and elderly, and a "safe, legal and rare" approach to abortion.

Oregon, moreover, continues the trend visible at the off-year elections of November 1995, when the heavily favoured Reof state legislatures in Virginia and Maine and the governorship of Kentucky.

The Wydeo win is another pointer that the American pub-lic feels that the congressional conservatives led by Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, have gone too far, especially in their intransigence in the budget dismment shutdowns.

to vindicate postal voting, permitted in the three-week perisealed at the 8pm deadline.

lic interest would plummet, turn-out topped 60 per cent, pended sentence for arranging the import of guns and night compared with 41 per cent in the 1994 congressional elections, and exceptionally high for a by-election. Oregon saved East Germany. \$1m (£660,000) oo the exercise.

not seeking re-election swelled further yesterday, as Charlie Rose, the influential North Carolina Democrat and a champion of the beleaguered tobacco industry, announced his retirement after 24 years. Life in the minority was "not as much fun", he said. He is the 38th House member and 25th Democrat to step down. A record 13 Senators have announced they will not seek re-election, eight of them Democrats and five Republicans.

# pute, which caused two gov-

The Oregon poll also seems

od before election day. Those who preferred to wait until Tuesday itself could leave their ballots in 160 "drop-boxes" across the state which were Despite predictions that pub-

The ranks of congressmen

Black breakthrough Jerusalem - Three days after riots by thousands of Ethiopi ans, one of the black Jewish immigrants became the first from Israeli parliament. Addisu Messele announced his candidacy after a meeting in which Presideot Ezer Weizman and immigrant leaders discussed the controversy over the national blood bank routinely discarding Ethiopian blood donations for fear of Aids.

# Managua - Police fired tear

gas and rescued \$1 hostages who had been held by protesting university students in the Nicaraguan foreign ministry building. The National Police Chief, Fernando Caldera, said 107 students, "a good part of the hostage-takers." were arrested.

'Superhero' dies

**Captives freed** 

New York - Jerry Siegel, who as a teenager in the Depression co-created Superman with Joseph Shuster, starting the craze for superheroes, has died aged 81.

Ton-up squid

Wellington - Scientists have caught a rare giant squid, 26ft, long and weighing nearly a ton, in 1,400ft-deep waters east of New Zealand. Steve O'Shea of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research. said the female squid, caught near the Chatham Islands on 31 December, is one of only 20 of its size known to have been caught anywhere in the world in

### 'Clean hands' candidate looks likely to be Poland's next PM

ADRIAN BRIDGE Central Europe Correspondent

The ruling coalition partners in Poland yesterday put forward a former Communist, Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, for the post of prime minister following the resignation of Jozef Oleksy over allegations that he had spied for the KGB.

The nomination of Mr Cimoszewicz, which was almost certain to be accepted by President Aleksander Kwasniewski, marked the end of a week of hard bargaining between leaders of the former Communist Social Democratic Alliance (SLD) and its junior coalition partner, the Polish Peasants' Party (PSL). It appeared to guarantee that Poland will continue moving in the direction of economic reform, and preparing itself for membership of the European Union and Nato. Mr Cimoszewicz, a 45-year-

old lawyer and former justice minister, was one of several candidates for the premiership following Mr Oleksy's dramatic resignation last week amidst protestations of innocence. Although he is part of the SLD's parliamentary caucus, he is not a member of its core party, and is seen as something of an independent spirit. As justice minister he became famous for his "clean hands" campaign aimed at ensuring that government officials were not using their positions to reap illicit financial gains - a policy which antagonised large

sections of the SLD itself. Mr Cimoszewicz also made his mark on the national level when he ran unsuccessfully against Lech Walesa in the 1990 presidential election. The PSL originally proposed

their own candidate for prime minister, but finally agreed to the candidacy of Mr Cimoszewicz yesterday while making it clear that they expected to be given more ministries in the new

Although Poland's constitution allows 14 days for the appointment of a new prime minister following a resignation, many of the country's senior leaders - including Mrkwasniewski - had pressed for earlier agreement on a replacement. Mr Kwasniewski, who today flies to Switzerland to participate in a meeting of the World Economic Forum, feared wrangling over Mr Oleksy's successor could have created an impression of instability.

the past decade.

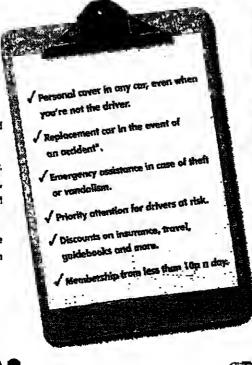
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the not

US District Judge Richar Musch directed the defend and prosecution to prepare its of changes that would have t be made at the counthouse be fore it could hold the trial. A tomeys for Timothy MeVeig and Terry Nichols, accused the hombing of a federal building that April, in which led pen ple died, want the trial movel their of Oktabania City in the interest of farmers.

#### 'Try Berlusconi'

Milan - Magistrates called for Silvio Beriuscom to be sent for trial on charges of illegally shanceling bribs, from his companies to Bettine Crav. the disgraced former prime numester. The request is a further blow to Mr Berluscon's hones of terurning to high opfice. He spent a turbulent set. en menths as prime manter in

#### Bosnia accord

Sarajevo - Mariding another, step in the implementation of the person agreement, a spread assembly clouded Coul and Mushing comes are a run the tedetation that will share Besnia with the Sine. They will be in charge of the self, my, trade calibration and appropriate within the federator of Mustims and Crosses distributed in principle Corner to the tree

#### Referendum pledge Mellourne -- A., about a

open o representante planta por la companya de la c all Sections of the American the first of the state of the s DOMESTIC CO.

#### Arms and a man

Stack breakthrough

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Captives freed Valuation and stages

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· Walter 

With the second 'Superhero' dies

Ton-up squid



last exit to Florida for poat people rom Cuba

#### PRAVISON

Tad left their native Cuba onmemade rafts, planks stred to the inner tubes of lowres, facing several days anghts in stormy, shark-infewaters to reach the Land of Free. Yesterday, 17 mes later, they finally sted on American soil.

re were 124 of them, sing, hearning, some wied in American flags, cang their helongings in hl rubbish bags as they sted from a charter plane at H stead air force hase near Mi. They were the last of so 30,000 Cuban refugees fle from the US military bat Guantanamo Bay, on thistern tip of their own isla where they had been ta in August 1994 by US Guard vessels, someafter drifting at sea for m than a week.

vas the ultimate irony: retid to the island they bad ri their lives to flee and iniwarned by President Bill On that they would never blowed into the US. Last NMr Clinton changed his py and announced that all ons at Guantanamo would ctually be admitted.

at was good news for d, but not for Cubans who sut on rafts after that date. Ur his new policy, Mr Clintodid all new "rafters" who reed US shores were subject thortation, and any picked ujsea would be returned to The Coast Guard has sireturned 133 to Havana, 24hose in January, showing agreements.

that Cubans are still Irying 10 flee the country, though not in the numbers of August 1994, when Fidel Castro ordered his security forces to turn a blind eye to the exodus.

With the departure of the last Guantanamo refugees, the US closed the sprawling camps of olive-green tents and plywood that had once been home to more than 30,000 Cubans and 20,000 Haitian boat people. Some of the Haitians were returned to their own country, while others were allowed into the US. The last group left the camps in November.

While Cubans were traditionally granted political asylum under US post-Castro policy because they were fleeing Communism, the Haitian boat people, though fleeing a brutal military regime in 1994, were officially considered "economic refugees" and not therefore eligible for asylum.

At their peak, the sunscorched camps at Guantanamo - nicknamed Gitmo by US soldiers assigned there were like a small town as refugees created their own makeshift schools, churches and haseball and basketball grounds. At one point, there were more than 8,000 US military personnel assigned to supervise them.

Before Mr Clinton's May 1995 announcement that all would be allowed into the US. frustration led to at least 60 suicide attempts - although only one man is known to have died - and several riots. Several bundred opted to return to Cuba under official handover



### \*Irinks all round i the not-so-dry Mormon state

Sun was Super Bowl night and tion the skiing - attracting a steady flow of newcomers. and, e watering boles all acroAmerica, the Thirsty Squi was jammed with boisteropunters cheering their teamenetrating the scrum to reacle bar was bard enough, but of there I was faced with anot obstacle. "Are you a mem?" the bartender po-

litelyuired.
Therew me for a second until an in the mêlée whom I hadver seen before shouted that hould "sponsor" me for the hing. I thanked him and, sto, my beer was duly servel was reminded that I was iltah.

Sed by the Mormon pio-neer gham Young in 1847, Utahi largely belongs to the secre: and deeply conservative Irmon church. Seventy per c of the population are Morms, and so are nine out of 10 the members of the state islature.

It is in 1833 that the

found of the Mormon church, Josephnith, surprised his follower- and doubtless dismayenany - by declaring that he haeceived a message from God bidding the consumptron ouch polluting substances as teauffee, tobacco products and abhol. The doctrine was detail in Smith's Book of Wisdom, at the faithful obey it totay. Hen that most American of drifs, Coca-Cola, is anathema ta strict Mormon.

Noturprisingly, Utah has ling did a reputation for enfacedean living. Though the stite my not be a theocracy exe Mormon church – forthe Church of Jesus Crisor Latter-Day Saints -lomover all state business; wenver public policy and sees coincide, it is the thing force. The only time ture overrode church oinion was when it supported the repealing of Prohibition 63

yer ago.

The Church's influence has, the sure, helped shape a state the is among America's safest ad reast pleasant. Salt Lake Cy, where most of the populacen is concentrated, is a tidy inassionless place, dramatised oly by the speciacular backdrop cthe Wasatch range to the east. This is one of the fastest growa states in America, with kow buse prices and a burgeoning li-tech industry - not to menUtah has for the last few

years been struggling to shed its puritanical image, aware that it is a damper on its tourist and convention business. Most striking was Salt Lake City's campaign - which finally brought victory last June - to be host to the 2002 Winter Olympics. The toughest challenge was convincing the selection committee that Utah was not nearly as strait-laced as the world supposed and that one myth in particular could be disposed of: that it is dry. As the Olympic hid chairman, Frank Joklik, pronounced shortly before final selection: "If you can't get a drink in Salt Lake City, you can't be

very thirsty." It is true that finding a tipple in Salt Lake today is barely more difficult than anywhere else in America. Various laws bave recently been amended or repealed so as to make it still easier. Restaurants, for example, are no longer forbidden, as they were until 1991, to serve wine by the glass, or to mix drinks for their customers.

The grip of the state - and thus the church - on alcohol consumption, nonetheless, remains total. All liquor stores are state-owned, and giant taxes make private drinking expensive. A six-pack of beer in central Salt Lake will cost you \$13 (£8.50), compared with about \$6 back East. Restaurants can serve alcobol, but food must account for more than 70 per cent of the customer's bill. Technically, bars do not exist. Instead, drinking establish-ments like the Thirsty Squirrel have to masquerade as private clubs. The membership fee is usually about \$5 - which goes

to the state. Few among the minority non-Mormon population, at least, take much of this very seriously. On returning to our Salt Lake botel, we inquire where we might go for a final round in the area. "Hang on," the receptionist replies, "I'll get you one". She ruffles through some unused membership cards for all the "clubs" in the neighbourhood before finding one for the "Port O' Call", a couple of blocks away. "Here. You can get five

people in on that". David Usborne



Flag day: The last refugees to leave the camp at Guantanamo Bay celebrating yesterday

لمكذا من الاصل

DAVID USBORNE New York

The super-clandestine National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), which operates America's spy satellites, has been accused of mislaying as much as \$2bn (£1.3bn) — more than an entire year's budget for the State Department.

The allegation, which is certain to bring new pressure on the US intelligence community to open itself up to more public scrutiny, was made by two senators who bead the Senate Intelligence Committee, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania and Bob Kerrey of Nebraska.

According to the senators. managers at the NRO "had no idea" what had happened to the money, which apparently had heen allowed to accumulate in secret caches for use, allegedly, in the case of unexpected hitchcs or accidents in its satellite programme.

The NRO, the very existence of which was denied by the US government until only a few vears ago, first ran into trouble with Congress in 1994 when it spent \$300m building itself a new headquarters in a Washington suburb witbout informing anyone on Capitol Hill.

The errant \$2bn apparently got lost principally because of the hall of mirrors that exists within the NRO itself, designed to prevent even its own subdivisions from discovering wbat the others are doing. About \$1bn has now been tracked down and taken back from the NRO to pay for other military

Created in 1960, the NRO is responsible for deploying high-powered satellites to eavesdrop on other governments' military movements and activities. It supplies the information from the satellites directly to the ClA and the armed forces. Funding for the NRO is pro-

vided from the so-called "black hudget" of \$28bn a year that is approved by Congress annual-by hut the exact purpose of which is never revealed. Most members of Congress themselves have little idea where the money goes.

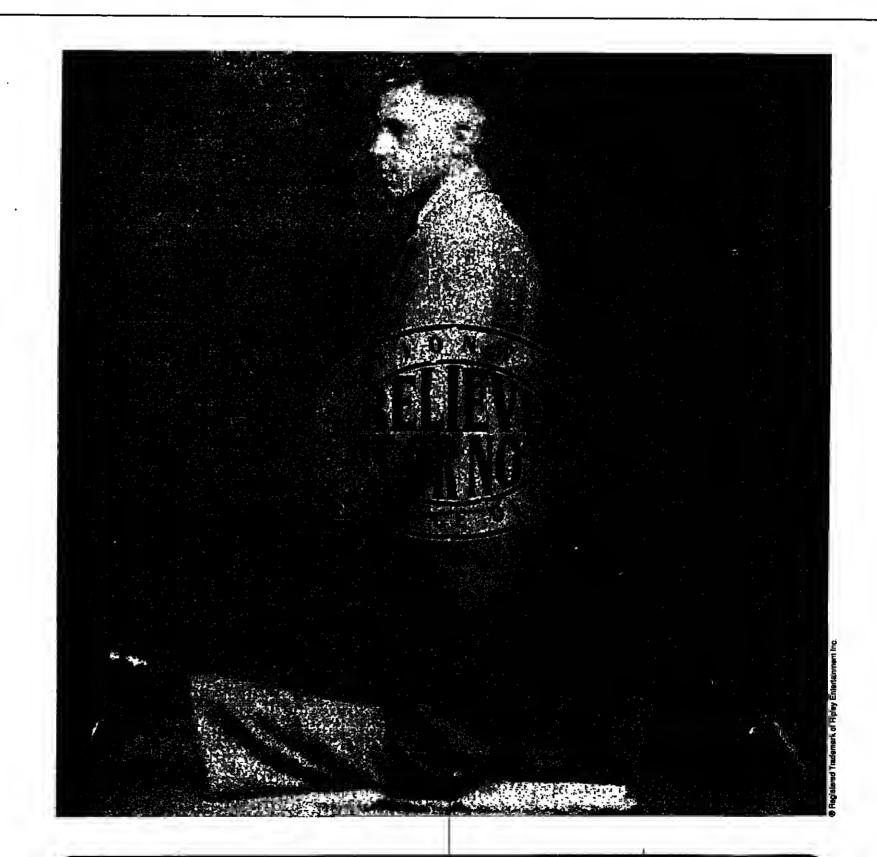
The disappearance of the funds was initially uncovered by auditors sent to the NRO by John Deutch, the director of the ClA. While he had nominal control of the NRO's expenditure, until recently even he had little clue to its actual spending habits. That lapse is not likely to be repeated, however.

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there are more startling discounts to choose from. Satisfy your curiosity, visit a Nationwide branch for more details.

Typical example and savings quoted assums borrowers take a variable rate of 2.14% after a 5.36% discount in year 1 off our current standard variable rate. A couple Imale and female), non-smokers, aged 25, applying for a £56,000 Endowment Mortgage over 25 years on a purchase prior Typical example and savings quoted assums borrowers take a variable rate of 2.14% after a 5.36% decount in year 1 off our current standard variable rate. A couple Imale and female), non-smokers, aged 25, applying for a £56,000 Endowment Mangage user 2.5 years on a purchase price of £93,000 (assumes deposit of 40%1. 300 monthly payments of £11.55, act of MIRAS at 15%, AFR 2.1% (variable). AFRs are based on 1 year discount applying for the term of the montgage. In practice, after the discount rate period, the Society's normal variable interest rate will apply.

Total Amount Payable will be £56,151, which includes 300 monthly payments must be made by Othert Debu or FlexAccount transfet for the term of the discount. Early redempine fees charged if you repay yout mortgage out transfer to another offer during the first for the ferson of the discount. Early redempine fees charged if you repay yout mortgage out transfer to another offer during the first for full denish act relevant literarce. Cathlock includes an application for refund of up to 2200 and a £50 Boous available if an application is made by 30th April 19% and completion occurs by 31st October 19%, paid after completion. Discounts quuted are the fees of the purchase price or valuation, whichever is the lower, an additional charge will be made. Nationwide Building Society. Nationwide Unit Trust Managers Limited is also regulated by 1MRO. Written quotations available on request from Nationwide Building Society. Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon SN38 1NW. Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme and subscribes in the Code of Banking Practice.

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# obituaries/gazette

# Jerry Siegel

In January 1933 two Cleveland college boys produced the third issue of their magazine on the school mimeograph. It was called with all the pride and pomposity of youth Science Fiction, the Advance Guard of Future Civilisation. The lead story, written by one Herbert S. Fine

- Jerome Siegel's latest pen name - and illustrated by his best friend, Joseph Shuster, was enritled "The Reign of the Superman"

was a villain looking not unlike the later bald haddie Lex Luthor, the bane of the long life of a Superman soon to be born - "the world's greatest adventure-strip character" in the words of his publisher. This phrase, super-promotional for publisher issued it in 1984. 1941, illustrated the confidence in the character that had changed the company's logo to "Superman DC". The DC stood for Detective Comics, the new comic book that had been launched with Siegel and Shus-ter's first successful comic-strip hero, Slam Bradley. "Ace Freelance Sleuth, Fighter and Adventurer"; a super-hero in every way save superiority of strength - that would come in June 1938 with no 1 of Action Comics.

Jerome - forever afterwards Jerry - Siegel was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1914, three months after Joe Shuster, who would become his lifelong partner, was born in Canada. In 1931 both teenagers were attending Glenville High School and met through the school newspaper, the Torch. Jerry was writing as a would-be jour-nalist. Joe was drawing as a would-be cartoonist, and both were fans of the latest literary craze, science-fiction, which was burgeoning in a series of cheap pulp magazines (named after their low-quality paper) under the eccentric genius of Hugo Gernsback.

Shuster showed Siegel his concept of tomorrow, a sketch of a city skyline filled with rocket ships and entitled "World of Future - 1980". Impressed, Siegel proposed that they put together their own magazine, and they launched their first issue on 6 October 1932. This idea was something Siegel had already tried out in 1929 with an amateur production. Cosmic Stories, but if was Shuster's pictures that made all the difference.

They decided to combine their talents by creating comic strips for newspapers. Their early attempts were solidly linked to their hobby of sci-fi, and ranged through titles like Extraordinary. They all failed to the hrand new cover, and top money-making films.

Dan Duva was the driving force

behind his family's hoxing pro-

motional and management

He was an uncontroversial

figure who ran what was, by box-

ing's standards, an uncompli-

cated business. He could be

cold, remote and undramatic,

especially in comparison to his

two great American rivals Bob

Arum and Don King, but he was

an organised, competent man

whose fighters stayed with him.

And that, in boxing, is rare. Evander Holyfield, the for-

mer undisputed world heavyweight champion, promoted by Main Events throughout his

11-year career, described Dan

He could be aggressive and

Duva as "a great friend".

company, Main Events Inc.

impress the syndicates. A break-through came in the early Thirties when a new field for funnies, as strips were frequently called opened up. A minor company reprinted some British comics, Funny Wonder and Comic Cuts; a New York publisher launched the first comic book, Famous Funnies; the Humor Company issued an original comic in cardboard covers, Detective Dan.

Siegel and Shuster tried them Prophetic, yes, but the hero all, and even produced a complete 16-page comic for a local paper, Cleveland Shopping News. This would prove their biggest disappointment to date: the publisher reneged and the book did not see publication un-

Superman was horn in similar circumstances: an enthusiastic creation that was immediately rejected. They wrote and drew a complete 32-page comic starring a strong man, hullets bouncing off his chest, with the stirring caption: "A Genius in Intellect! A Hercules in Strength! A Nemesis to Wrongdoers! The Superman!"

The Humor Company thought it laughable and sent it back. Shuster promptly tore it

With the arrival of a series of new comic hooks, the pair found more luck. They became regular contributors to New Fun (1935), and other titles launched by Major Malcolm Wheeler-Nicholson, pioneer of the original comic rather than the usual reprint comics of the period. Their first series was Henri Duval, Famed Soldier of Fortune, soon followed by their first fantasy, Doctor Occult, the Ghost Detective, and finally Federal Men, which they turned into their first published sci-fi superstrip, Federal Men of Tomorrow. Hearing that a new strip was

required for the first issue of Ac-

tion Comics, they dusted off their Superman concept yet again. Every syndicate in the book had rejected it. The comic publisher did not care for it either, but his young editor Sheldon Mayer thought it great. Although history recorded that Mayer himself cut and pasted their daily strips into a 13-page feature, a story innocently repeated in my International Book of Comics (1985), Jerry Siegel wrote to tell me this was not so. "Joe and I cut and pasted the strips, and Joe's brother Frank assisted too. This was done at Cleveland at Joe's residence. I planned out the 13 pages and ry, while Joe

pragmatist. In 1986 he launched

a verbal assault on Don King in

the New York Daily News, call-

ing him a "sleazebag" and a "strong-arm man". But that

didu't stop him working with

King when he felt it advanta-

geous to do so, as in the cele-

hrated fight between the Main

Events star Pernell Whitaker

and Julio Cesar Chavez, who is

promoted by King, in 1993. It drew almost 60,000 people to

the San Antonio Alamodome

and made a fortune for both

his father Lou, a gregarious,

larger-than-life character who

enjoys being compared to car-

has been involved in boxing

toon figure Barney Rubble and

He cut a contrasting figure to

fighters and promoters.



nan drawn by Joe Shuster in 1941. Siegel and Schuster created their comic-strip hero in 1933

created the Superman logo." This logo has remained virtually unchanged since that first appearance. I corrected the

legend in my second edition. The history of the American comic book was changed for all time by the debut of Superman. Within months similar superheroes sprang into life in dozens of new titles by as many new publishers. Siegel's newspaper strip was taken up by the Mc-Clure Syndicate, a radio serial was launched, Max Fleischer began perhaps the finest animated cartoon series ever, Columbia Pictures produced two film serials, there was a hardhack novel, and many more comic books. In time, Superman would enter television, both wrote any script changes 1 live action and animated, and finally the higher echelons of

came into it via the Seton Hall

School of Law and a law prac-

tice which he operated from 1976 to 1980. Whereas he

would work hard to negotiate

husiness advantages for his company and its fighters, Lou

Duva often took a more direct

approach. Once, when he spot-

ted Holyfield's forthcoming op-

ponent Buster Douglas, a

known junkfood freak, sitting

eating a pizza in a sauna, Lou

secretly sent him an extra one.

Douglas went into the fight

speciacularly unfit and was

knocked out quickly. Together,

Dan and Lou Duva were a

Main Events dabbled in box-ing in the late 1970s, promot-

ing shows at Totowa, New Jersey, and earning television

Dan Duva

None of this did Siegel and Shuster much good. They had sold their first 13-page strip for \$10 a page, a fee which included all rights. They also won a 10year contract guaranteeing

them \$500 for each 13-page strip they produced, together with a tiny percentage of the early merchandising, but the last straw was Superboy, based on the life of Superman as a teenager. This spin-off was not credited to them. They sued their publisher in 1947 and were eventually awarded \$100,000 compensation. In addition their publisher gave them the sack. Siegel came back in 1948 with

Funnyman, a humorous vergreat shakes despite a sup-portive newspaper strip. In 1963 gain their rights in Superman, January 1996.

launched pay-per-view TV.

most importantly Holyfield.

Mark Breland. All four be-

came world professional cham-

pions. Holyfield went on to

Altogether Dan Duva and his

organisation promoted or co-

promoted more than 100 world-

title fights, and in the 1990s were

instrumental in the risc of

Lennox Lewis. More than that,

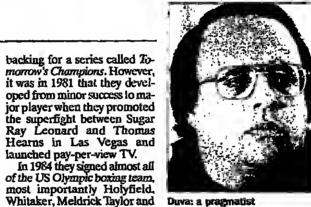
gross more than \$100m.

hut after 12 years in the courts their claim was dismissed.

When the first Superman super-movie went into production in 1976, they tried once more, making their copyright claims public together with their monetary distress. This time they were lucky: the owners settled out of court giving them \$20,000 a year for life, plus restoring their creators' credits to the strips. Shuster, virtually blind, died in 1992. Victims of wicked publishing practices, Siegel and Shuster will always be remembered, particularly by comic fans, an ever-growing sector of the world's population.

Denis Gifford

sion of Superman, but it was no Jerome Siegel, cartoon writer: great shakes despite a supber 1914; married (one son, one Steve Walsh, Scientific Adventurer created several new drawings, cinema with four of the world's Siegel and Shuster tried to re- daughter); died Los Angeles 30



Duva was acknowledged as one of the major hoxing promoters

Dan Duva, boxing promoter: born 1951; married (one son, two daughters); died New York 30

### **Terence Reese**

Terence Reese was the most famous name in British bridge. He was the author or co-author of some 90 books on the game, the bridge correspondent of the London Evening Standard from 1981 and of the Observer from 1950. Perhaps his most acclaimed hook was Reese on Play (1948), a classic which made his reputation as a writer.
In the course of his tourna-

ment career he was in the winning British teams in four European championships (1948, 1949, 1954 and 1963) and the Bermuda Bowl World Championship in 1965, as well as representing Britain on many other occasions. Domestically, he was in the winning Gold Cup team (the premier British team event) no fewer than eight times - a record only surpassed

by his partner Boris Schapiro. Reese was brought up with cards. His parents first met at a whist drive and at the age of three, before he could read, he became addicted to beggar-my-neighbour. When he was seven he was introduced to Auction Bridge (Contract Bridge - now the only bridge game universally played, and simply referred to as Bridge did not appear for another five years) but, he said, at that age 13 cards were difficult to handle and he had to retire behind a cushion to sort his hand.

He was educated at Bradfield College, where he gained his colours in cricket and football and - an all-rounder - won the top classical scholarship to New College, Oxford. By now, with Contract Bridge having overtaken the old Auction game, he first came to the public eye in 1935 when he captained the winning Oxford team in the inangural Varsities match, defeating a Cambridge side led by Iain Macleod, the future politician, by a comfortable margin. On coming down from Ox-

ford he took up a traineeship at Harrods but this did not last long. In 1936 he left to become a professional bridge player and writer. The war years saw him serv-

ing in Air Raid Precautions and bridge was restricted to the occasional rubber. Once, while playing at Crockfords, the club, there was a loud explosion nearby. A member rushed in with the news, "My God! They playing captain of a British

have got the War Office!" Playing another card from dummy. Reese observed laconically,

"Not intentionally, surely."

After the war Reese founded the Tournament Bridge Association, a commercial enterprise but one which had the effect of giving the tournament game a sound footing before control was passed over to the present organising bodies, the English Bridge Union and the British Bridge League. The year 1965 saw the biggest

scandal that the hridge world

has known. After winning the European Championships in Baden-Baden the previous year by a record margin, the British team (including Reese and Schapiro) qualified for the Bermuda Bowl World Championships in Buenos Aires. In the course of the event the British pair were accused of cheating by illicit signalling of the number of hearts that their hand contained. With their accusers including the British non-playing captain, the remaining matches were con-ceded and the Executive Committee of the World Bridge Federation judged the pair to be guilty. They passed the matter over to the British Bridge League to decide on an appropriate punishment. But the BBL decided to conduct their

own independent investigation.
A full tribunal, headed by Sir John Foster and General Lord Bourne, was set up with both sides represented by solicitors and leading barristers. The affair dragged on for some 19 months spread over about 60 sessions. As neither Foster nor Bourne had any pretensions to being expert players, each side chose an "independent" assessor to weigh up the technical evidence. What can 1 say, as the assessor chosen by Terence and Boris? The visual evidence of finger signalling was seemingly convincing but in no way did the fully documented records of the bidding and play confirm the allegations. They were consistent with the performance of a top-class pair playing distinct-ly out of form. The verdict of the

tribunal was "Not Guilty". The World Bridge Federation was not happy with this decision and when, much later, Reese was suggested as the nonteam in the Europeana onships, the Credenti-Committee decided that was unacceptable. One their grounds was that "his lings had been contrary to rapint of the game". They m have been referring to t mild pornography and suggests of drug-taking in Trick inten (1980), but as this was towel (co-authored by Jeren lint) and set far in the future connection seemed tenuo. After

nament careers butere played in partnership in. When interviewed 1981 Reese was asked whethir he had his life again, he followed the same particles. are some in a tions," he replied. "F

an interval, both Re and

Schapiro resumed thetom-



canacity to have done w law. On the other hand I cha-sically indolent and I daily I would have done the line thing again." One wonderhat he might have achieved he had been a hard worker

Terence Reese made Hatt public appearance atthe Macallan International his in London last week fler commenting upon the ansofthe younger generalid of bridge players, he attending formal closing dinner - a tektie affair - wearing a checilist minded, or was surprise After returning home to He de died the following night.

John Terence Reese, with and bridge player: born 28 Augul 913; married 1970 Alwyn Sherigion;

### **Tracey Chadwell**

the chance of international work was Rawsthorne's Second filled as many engagemits as recognition her gifts deserved. Symphony with the London she was able. After two hone

I first met her al an English Song course I was giving at Snape in Suffolk when she was an outstanding student, having recently graduated from the Guildhall School of Music in 1981, with flying colours. Her strikingly beautiful, agile voice, effortless musicianship and gift for communication augured well for a hright future.

She won several important competitions, including the 1986 GKN English Song Award and the Soprano Prize of the Great Grimsby International Singing Competition, and was successful in being chosen for schemes for young artists, such as the Park Lane Group's scries. For a few years, from 1982 to 1985, the BBC Singers gave her a stable base on which to build her solo career. Regular oratorio and broadcast engagements followed, including work with the Bach Choir, the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra and ap-pearances with the BBC

The soprano Tracey Chadwell was one of the best artists of her generation, yet was robbed of certs. Amongst her recorded thoughts. Through the long months of treatment appearance on the soprano tracey Chadwell Symphony Orchestra which into thoughts. Through the long months of treatment appearance is a soprano tracey Chadwell specific through the long months of treatment appearance. Philharmonic Orchestra, Songs for Voice and Harp by Edmund Rubbra, and Songs by Thomas Pitfield.

Always interested in new music, she developed relationships with composers such as the late Elizabeth Maconchy, Nicola Lefanu, David Lumsdaine and Gillian Whitehead, and promoted their work with energy and enthusiasm. In 1993 she toured New Zealand and gave the first performance of Gillian Whitehead's Awa Herea. She made fruitful contacts in New Zealand, and a third antipodean tour was being

planned. Her career was, inevitably, hadly affected by her hattle against leukaemia, diagnosed in 1990, at a time when her career 1990, at a time when her career and provided an insping exstages of "young" and "estab-lished" performer. However it was impossible to think of her as a "victim" - her complete absence of self-pity and sentimentality dispelled any such

marrow transplants te appeared to have made autoculous recovery, and resoled her career with undiminishing She made a first comeick appearance at a recital at t Wigmore Hall in London innuary 1994, with her long-tie accompanist Pamela Lidal and then in April of the say year appeared at the Royalistval Hall singing Britten's a Thuminations with the leisler

String Orchestra. To mourn a young colleague cut off in mid-reer is particularly poignant fracey Chadwell was not in a fine singer, and devoted find. Her qualities, put to a hater test than most people have bear, were of heroic projitions, and generosity of spin

Jane Maning

Coby train...

· 电电影

Tracey Chadwell, soprage born 9 March 1959; died 124

### Births, Marriages & Deaths

RIRTHS

DOWNS: To Carol (née Fox) and Nick a son, Jock, on 31 January.

HART: Janet (Jan) née Fyvic, di Car-oline Terrace, London SWL After a long ilmess, died peacefully on 29 Jan-tary 1996. Funeral service on Tues-day 6 February at Putney Vale Crematorium at 1.45pm. Floral trib-utes, please, to Ernest Larner & Son, Puneral Directors, 246 Upper Richmood Read, Putner, by 12 norm.

Announcements for Gazette BIKTRS, MARRIAGES & ILEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London El 4 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 20(1 or faxed to 0171-293 20(1 or faxed to 0171-293 20(1)).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princets of Vigles, Parron, Braids Lung Pour fution, attends a Gala Performance of Lot Bolem at the Royal Albert Hall. London SWI. The Dala of Kens, President, attends the Engineering Cour-cil's Unification Laurch dunier at the Institution of Crol Engineers, London SWI.

Changing of the Guard
The thruschold Cavairy Motuned Regiment
motes the Queen's life Guard at Horse Guards.
House 1st Battalion frish Guards mounts the
Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am,
hand provided by the Coldstream Guards.

ORRECTION: The picture which the obituary in the ceter Tummy Mitchell (30 Janu-) was not of him but of his son, m, who also played for Derbyahire,

#### Forthcoming marriages

forthright, but he was also a most of his life. Dan Duva

Dr N. M. Henstridge and Dr C. E. Malone

The engagement is announced be-tween Mark, son of the Rev E.J. and Mrs Henstridge, of Elstead, Surrey, and Catherine, daughter of Mr G.E. Malone and Mrs O. Malone.

Birthdays

Lord Abernethy, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 58; Dr Christopher Barnett, Headmaster, Whitgift School, Croydon, 43; Sir Kenneth Bood, former vice-chairman, GEC, 76; Sir Peter Crill, judge, Court of Appeal of Jersey and Guernsey, 71; Mrs Josceline Dimbleby, cookery writer, 53; Professor Sir Sam Edwards, physicist, 68; The Sir Sam Edwards, physicist, 68; The Very Rev Eric Evans. Dean of St Paul's, 68; Mr Don Everly, rock singer, 59; Sir Douglas Haff Bt, former overseas governor, 87; Hildegarde (Miss Hildegarde Sell), singer and actress, 90; Sir Gordon Hobday, former Chamcellor, Nottingham University, 30; Mr Adam Ingram MP, 49; Professor Douglas Johnson, writer and historian of France, 71; Sir Manrice Laing, life president, John Laing ple, 78; Mrs Virginia Leng, three-day-eventer, 41; Mr John Donald McCall, former chairman, Consolidated Gold Fields, 85; Sir Stanley Matthews, footballer, 81; Sir John Nott, former chairman and chief executive of Lazards, 64; Professor Sir ocutive of Lazards, 64; Professor Sir Mark Richmond, head of research. Glam Holdings, 65; Mr Peter Sallis, actor, 75; Mr Andrew Smith MP, 45; Dame Muriel Spark, writer, 78; Sir Peter Tapsell MP. 66; Miss Renata Tebaldi, operatic soprano, 74; Mr Boris Yeltsin, President of the

#### Anniversaries

brilliant team.

Births: Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief Justice and author, 1552; John Philip Kemble, actor, 1757; Dame Clara Ellen Butt, contraito singer, 1872; John Ford (Sean Aloysius O'Fearna), film director, 1895; William Clark Gable, actor, 1901. Deaths: René Descartes, scientist and philosopher, 1650; John Lemprière, ctassicat scholar, 1824; Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (Godwin), author of franken-stein, 1851; Piet Mondrian, abstract painter, 1944; Buster (Joseph Fran-

Lectures

Callery", Ipra.
Victoria and Albert Museum: Amanda Fielding, "20th-century Furniture (i)", 2.30pm.
Tate Gallery: Michael Grossbard, tdeas as Objects: a legacy of

painter, 1944; Buster (Joseph Francis) Keaton, comedian, 1966. On this day: the first meeting of the US Supreme Court took place, 1790; Mount Etna, Sicily, began violent eruptions, 1865; the first volume of the Oxford English Dictionary was published. 1884; the first British labour exchanges opeoed, 1910; clothes rationing ended in Britain, 1949; in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 220 people died in a fire which raged in an office block, 1974. Today is the Feast Day of Si Bride or Brigid of Kildare, St Henry Morse, St John of the Graing, Si Pionius, Si Seiriol and St Signary. ing, SI Pionius, SI Seiriol and St Sige-bert III of Austrasia.

National Gallery: Kathleen Adler, "Picasso (i): Picasso and the National

Duchamp", 1pm.
British Museum: Nicola Douek,
"Yuya and Tuya", 1.15pm.
National Portrait Gallery: Frances
Borzello, "Powder and Paint women artists in the 18th century", 1. t0pm. Gresham College, (held in the Old Hall Lincoln's Inn, London WC2):

#### Professor Simon Lee, "Sir Thomas More: the 500th anniversary of his admission to Lincoln's lnn". 6pm.

London School of Economics, London WC2: Professor Denis Kessler, "The Economics of Intergenera-tional Transfers", 5.30pm. Oxford Amnesty Lecture. Sheldoo ian Theatre, Oxford: Shere Hite "Women's Voices, Women's Rights"

Luncheons HM Government

Mr Ian Lang MP. President of the Board of Trade, was the host at a lun-cheon held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Mr Aleksei Bolshakov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federadon.

Dinners

Ministry of Defence Mr Michael Portillo MP, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a dinner held yesterday evening at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3, 10 mark the retirement of Field Marshal Sir Richard Vinceol as Chairman of the Nato Military

Schools

Francis Bolland School

The biennial Old Girls' Party for the School Birthday of Francis Holland School will be held on Thursday 29 February from 6pm. at the school. Any Old Girl who has not received an invitation is asked to get in touch with the school turnake sure the register is accurate. Please reply to Francis Holland School, 39 Graham Terrace, London SW1W 8JF, telephone 0171-730 2971.

### Claim after 18 years was unreasonable

Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Iain Glidewell): 26 January 1996

It was not reasonable for a parttime worker to bring a claim for unfair dismissal 18 years after she was sacked, even though at the time such a claim was barred under the UK law then in force, and that UK law had only recently been amended to bring it in line with European anti-discrimination law. Had she known, the applicant could have relied on the European law at the time.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Mary Biggs and affirmed the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal ([1995] ICR 811) upholding the ruling of an indus-trial tribunal that her unfair dismissal complaint against Somerset County Council had been brought out of time. James Goudie QC (Bindman & Pas) for Mrs Biggs; David Prantick QC and Paul Golding (Andrew North, Taunton) for Somerset

Lord Justice Neill said that in R v Secretary of State for Employment, ex p Equal Opportu-nities Commission [1995] 1 AC 1 at 31, (the EOC case) the House of Lords made two declarations of great significance EOC case on 3 March 1994.

LAW REPORT

1 February 1996

sions of the Employment Pro-tection (Consolidation) Act 1978, whereby employees working fewer than 16 hours per week were subject to different conditions in respect of 1) qualification for redundancy pay, and 2) the right to compensation for unfair dismissal, from those applying to em-ployees working 16 hours or more per week, were incom-patible with article 119 of the EEC Treaty and Council Directives 75/117/EEC and

76/207/EEC. Mrs Biggs was employed by Somerset in 1975 as a part-time science teacher working 14 hours per week. On 31 August 1976 she was dismissed. At that time, the right not to be un-fairly dismissed, under para 4 of Schedule 1 to the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974, did not apply to con-tract of employment for less than 21 hours weekly: see Schedule 1, para 9(1)(f). The comparable provisions of the 1974 Act were now in

Schedule 13 of the 1978 Act. The House of Lords announced its decision in the

in employment law: the provi- Mrs Biggs's unfair dismissal claim was lodged on 1 June 1994. The normal three-month time limit for claims under section 67(2) of the 1978 Act was the same as in Schedule I to the 1974 Act. Section 67(2) provided that a tribunal "shall not consider"

a complaint unless il was presented within the three-month time limit "or within such further period as the tribunal considers reasonable in a case where it is satisfied that it was not reasonably practicable for the complaint to be presented" within three months.

The tribunal's chairman found it had not been reasonably practicable for Mrs Biggs to present her claim within three months because of the statutory provisions excluding pari-time employees from hringing such claims. But he did not consider n "further period" of 18 years to be "reasonable". In the Employment Appeal Tribunal Mr Justice Mummery concluded:

concluded:

It was possible by virtue of the decision in Defreune v Sabena [1976]
ICR 547... for the applicant to present her complaint... within three months of her being dismissed and to argue then that the qualifying

conditions in UK domestic that time were ineffective to her claim by reason of t compatibility with art 119.

His Lordship agreed to Biggs's mistake as to will rights were was a mist law, not fact. The decision was a mist believed to be a second to be the EOC case was decla of what the law had been ince the primacy of Community law was established by section 2 of the European Communities Act 1972. Accordingly, since 1 January

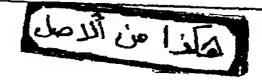
1973, and certainly since he de-cision of the European Court in Defrenne v Sabena, there had been no legal impediment preventing someone claiming to have been unfairly dismissed from arguing that the retric-tion on claims by part-time workers was indirectly discriminatory.

The fact that it was not un-

til 3 March 1994 that the House of Lords declared the thresh old provisions in the 1978 Act to be discriminatory could not be used to argue that it was not "reasonably practicable" by one then to present a claim within

the time limit. For these and other reason the appeal should be dismissed. Lord Justice Ankl and Sir Iain Glidewell concurred.

Paul Magrath, Berrister



THURSDAY : FEER

news analysis

Funerals don't have to be gloomy and costly. Steve Boggan looks at moves to modernise a stagnant ritual

# The business of dying

When he dies, Mike Hoyland will be placed in a coffin painted in the colours of Liverpool Football Club. He will be carried along in a horse-drawn carriage to Liverpool's Catholic Cathedral, where he hopes a Requiem Mass will be celebrated by a priest wearing a red and white scarf around his neck.

As he is carried out of the church by his frlends - he is realistic enough to accept that Liverpool's back four will probably not be available - the tune to Match

of the Day will be playing. Friends in football kit will attend a wake at a local pub, at which several hundred pounds will have been placed behind the bar. The instructions for the funeral, which have been given to his solicitor, include the codicil that anyone caught crying must buy a round of

Mr Hoyland is one of the many people who don't want their funeral to be a miserable affair, but he is one of the few who have actually planned it. The others the vast majority of us - will have the arrangements made by funeral directors who mean well but know nothing about our per-sonalities or life-long wishes.

Responsibility for our last jour-ney will probably be given over at the last minute by grieving relatives, whose suffering will be made worse by the subsequent impersonal ceremony at a dull church or office-like crematorium, by the lack of warmth, by the absence of any form of celebration for the life that went before the death.

"That's not for me," says Mr Hoyland, 34, a businessman from Leicester. "I want my friends to remember the good things and the fact that I enjoy life. Everyone says that, but how many do anything

Well, until this week, almost nobody. But then the publication of the morbidly named Dead Citizen's Charter, by a think-tank called the National Funerals College, was followed by the opening of the country's first funerary supermarket - based loosely on the French supermarché du mort at which cut-price caskets in chipboard and cardboard rub up as bookcases and wine racks. Suddenly, fun funerals, DIY funerals and cheap funerals are

on our doorstep.

Lord Young of Dartington, the founder of the National Funerals College, explains: "People are entitled to the funeral they have chosen and to one that helps their loved ones to deal with their loss.

Lord Young has come up with a 24-point plan to guarantee the rights of all those involved even, or perhaps especially, the

The right to information is perhaps the most important of their demands, given that a Consumers' Association survey recently found that one-third of funeral directors failed to provide estimates before hitting bereaved people with bills averaging £1,015 for a burial and £888 for cremation.

But funeral directors may not be the villains of the peace. The cotlege and the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) are more concerned about the way that local authorities, the owners of cemeteries and crematoria, treat bereaved families. Charges for burials are spiralling and cremation services in some areas are being

limited to 20 minutes. A survey by the NAFD, published here for the first time, shows enormous regional variations in the cost of being buried (see table). Graves in some parts of Wales cost as little as £90, whereas in London, the same size plot can set you back £1,800. Cremation, which 70 per cent of us now prefer, varies in cost from £80

to £250, depending on the region. "I know funeral directors are often portrayed in a bad light, but our survey shows that local authorities' charges are increasing at an exorbitant rate," says Mary Stuart, the NAFD's spokeswoman.

"Since 1992, our members' rates have increased at about 8 per cent

#### **Church fights** price war

The Church of England may be losing its grip on the deaths of the nation. The Church Commissioners set a fee of £57 for funeral services. The priest gets £31. The rest goes to the parochial church

These fees have risen by more than 90 per cent in the past three years as part of the Church Commissioners' drive to recover from losses on property speculation in undertakers are accused of using retired clergy to conduct cheaper services. The Rev Tom Ambrose, of the diocese of Ely, says that "a stiff letter" was sent to retired clergy in the diocese recently. Some crematoria were paying retired clergy as much as £200

a day, according to Mr Ambrose.

increases for the local authorities' side of the fees - crematoria. gravediggers, plots - range from 5 per cent in Yorkshire to almost 95 per cent in the north of

There is a capacity crisis in most graveyards, which means that councils are exploring radical options to meet demand, such as reusing old graves. The National Funerals College believes that councils are under pressure from the Government to become self-financing. It crematoria are privatised, charges

could increase further. All of which may bring a smile to the face of Sam Weller, who today opens the country's first funerary supermarket, Regale, in a former Co-op store in east London. He believes that he can cul about £200 from the cost of the average funeral.

Customers, who are greeted by cheery lights and staff under orders not to wear black, can shop for coffins, flowers, grave-stones, even tools to tidy the grave, before handing over the arrangements to Mr Weller or an undertaker of their choice. "They can put a coffin in the back of their car and drive off if they want," he says.

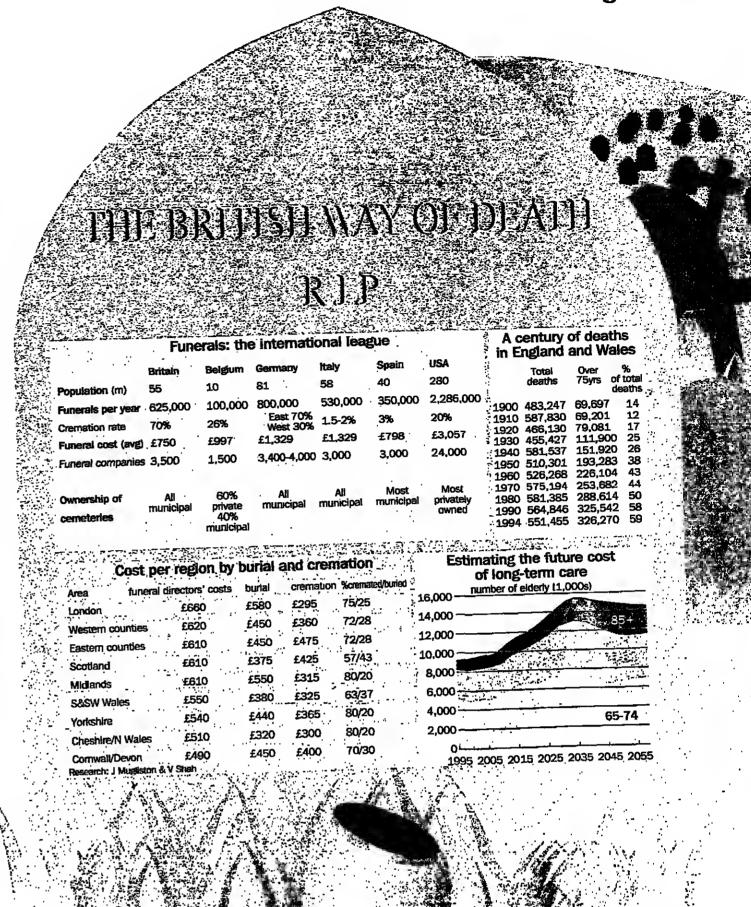
His prices - coffins from £134 to the bookshelf-cum-casket at £1,304 - are invariably cheaper than their counterparts ordered unseen from undertakers.

Mr Weller explains what led him into the business: "I was astonished at the lack of choice of consideration for the consumer. This was an industry stuck in Victorian times. We're trying to bring it up to date in a way that isn't

Mr Weller's interest is commercial. Lord Young's is loftier, almost political. But both lead in the same direction: more consumer choice over how we deal with death. Yet even that is unlikely to cure the discomforting aspect of many funerals: the gaps they expose in the fabric of the modern family.

Mary Stuart, of the Association of Funeral Directors, says: "Very few people recognise the religious side of funerals these days. more people move away from their original roots, means that very few funerals are attended by more than just the immediate relatives and a few friends."

You can have your jazz band, and your coffin can be pulled by a team of huskies, but even that is unlikely to make sure the church is full.



#### Plane strain? Go by train...

are vastly underpaid and deserve far more for their arduous workload. And here's a good example of just the sort of work that we pay them for. The MP for Workington. Dale Campbell-Savours, has

Dale: underground rumble

garnered the support of 11 colleagues, including the former transport minister Peter Bottomley, for an Early Day Motion castigating London Underground over its ticketselling arrangements at Heathrow and the bad impresis sion these necessarily make on

visitors to the United Kingdom. But is it really visitors to the UK that Mr Campbell-Savours is concerned about; or is it Mr Campbell-Savours? Forget all the guff at the end of this very

long motion about the "appalling service ... providing the first experience of the United Kingdom" for foreign visitors. The sunnier climes the MP for Workington is really referring to are clearly those of Workington. He states: "This House

notes the extraordinary arrangements for the sale of underground tickets at London Heathrow; notes travellers from Manchester to London, including the hononrable member for Workington, frequently spend more time waiting in a long, winding queue to buy an underground ticket than they do on the aircraft

To which one replies, (a) come off it, (b) we all have to queue from time to time without provoking a parliamentary debate and (c), how very interesting to learn that our elected representatives find it necessary to fly from Manchester at great expense when there is an InterCity train service that would get them to Westminster in pretty much

the same time. Now there's a good subject for debate.

### lilac fairy

The fascinating BBC fly-on-the-wall series on the Royal Opera House missed a little nugget this week when it showed the Royal Ballet company meeting President Clinton in Washington. Unrecorded by the cameras was the encounter between Mr C and the delightful ballerina Fiona

Having read up un the political and sexual scandals besetting Clinton at the time, Miss Chadwick told a bemused president in front of his even more bemused First Lady that he needed a lilac fairy, the dispenser of good fortune in Sleeping Beauty. Clinton looked none the wiser. Sadly, any lilac fairies hovering over the con-versation picked the wrong target. Clinton remains in office. Miss Chadwick's contract was unexpectedly terminated at the end of the season.

# *Observer* man

The editor of the Observer has a problem. His staff. They exasperate him; and what is a poor boy to do? Andrew Jaspan, current holder of the top job at the troubled newspaper has reacted in unusual fashion. He has decided to moan about his bolshie journalists, not to their faces nor to his board, but to

Clinton snubs the readers of another newspaper 400 miles from the Observer's base, but well within the sights of the eye of the

> Interviewed in Scotland on Sunday, which he used to edit in happier times, an emotional Jaspan gives the following cry

> "But what do I do?" asks Jaspan with exasperation. '! can't just go out into the newsroom and say, right, from tomorrow there will be no more factions. Over a period of time I have to demonstrate to people that there are other ways to work, that they have to play as a team.\*

> The article paints a byzantine picture of "three separate and mutually suspicious camps vying for editorial influence and control," and quotes Jaspan bewailing the fact that "seemingly it's the game in town among journalists to bitch about their papers and their

Shocking. But at least the bitching by staff about their papers and editors is done in town, unlike the bitching by editors about their staffs, which doesn't even take place in the same country.

#### Snoozy

An unfortunate misprint, I assume, in the Tablet, the international Catholic weekly. Reviewing Mervyn Blatch's book, A Guide To London Churches, Felix Barker

wanted. I suspect to say that he "slnmped back" in his chair "happy to be conducted through 150 churches", and not that he "slumbered back" in his chair, as printed. Of course, I could be wrong.

#### **Potty Neil**

After Paul McCartney telling the would-be rock stars at Liv-



Diamond: spelling it like it is

erpool's fame school to lay off drugs this week, I see that the American crooner Neil Diamond is telling Q magazine how he founded the pressure group Performers Against Drugs. In fact, he originally called the outfit Musicians Against Drugs, until a friend pointed out that the acronym did him no favours.

**Eagle Eye** 

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O 339 O ●

No specific offence of stalking

From Mr Timothy Kirkhope

people from stalkers.

such as stalking.

Sir: Your leading article "Arming

women against stalkers" (30 Jan-

uary), calls on the Government to

strengthen the law to protect

by bringing in a tough new law,

under the Criminal Justice and

Public Order Act 1994, to tackle

intentional harassment. This

offence, which carries a maxi-

mum penalty of six months in prison or a £5,000 fine, or both,

is aimed at racial abuse but can

apply to any form of harassment,

A specific offence of stalking would be difficult to prove and

unlikely to result in convictions.

Stalking can range from ostensi-

hly harmless activities, such as sit-

ting outside someone's house, to

more serious action, such as

threats and abusive telephone

calls, which are already criminal There are real difficulties in

inalising routine and essentially

harmless hehaviour, but we are

We have already taken action

That is why we are also exam-ining the anti-stalking laws that exist in the US, Canada and Aus-

tralia. We are looking carefully to

see if there are any lessons to be

learnt from the experiences of

these countries to build on the

powers our police already have. We will continue to work with

the police and other groups who

have experience of dealing with

cases of stalking in considering

whether there might be any scope to improve the ability of the

would it take to make them

Venice insured

apparently deserving cause.

Before doing so, however, they

complete repair and refurbish-

From Mr Peter Irvine

Yours faithfully,

Home Office

31 January

London, SW1

From Dr. D. Zuck

uncomfortable?

Yours faithfully,

TIMOTHY KIRKHOPE

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# Before a pay rise, a few questions...

The charge of the gallant 200 MPs, signing up for a doubling of their wages, has been as brave as it has been doomed. If they press their attack, only the tattered remnants will make it back to friendly lines. For the country does not want to hear their arguments, or to consider their case. John Major knows this, and will probably deny their request that the Nolan committee's remit should be

widened to take in MPs' pay.

Pensioners will say they could live handsomely on an MP's expenses. The upstanding will argue that public service is its own reward. The self-righteous will allege that MPs are simply feathering their nests and should not be paid more because they already earn so much in consultancy fees and other nefarious sources

All of that misses the point, which is: what rate of pay will ensure that those who the country might wish to put themselves forward for election are not deterred from doing so by financial considerations?

Yet before we can consider that question, we must decide our answers to others: what sort of job is it that we are paying for? How well do MPs do it? How many of them do we need?

The three tasks of members of the Commons are usually defined as sustaining a government (providing ministers, passing legislation, etc.); scrutinising legislation and the actions of the executive; and staffing a forum that is meant to be the focus for democratic debate.

They only do the first part of their job moderately well. The House sustains the Government: the whipping and patronage systems make sure of that. But the Government has far too many ministers, especially in an era when the scope of the state is meant to be shrinking.

As a scrutinising chamber, the House performs badly. Select committees only look at past actions of the Government

Lup in flames this week is in Venice

rather than London, La Fenice - trans-

lated literally as the Phoenix - is almost

certain to rise from the ashes, given the

But imagine for a moment that the

much maligned Royal Opera House in

Covent Garden had been razed to the

ground. After the furore provoked by the

massive National Lottery grant to the

Opera House, which already receives a

£20m Arts Council subsidy, public sup-

port for rebuilding might not be over-

whelming. There can be few other insti-

tutions with national pretensions that

hopelessly polarised. Those infuriated by

opera's élitist trappings point to the extortionate cost of tickets - £140 for a

good seat at Covent Garden. The argu-

ment that the taxpayer should not sub-

sidise the recreational pursuits of a rich,

self-regarding élite is rather persuasive.

Yet opera lovers argue that it is an

exquisite art form that needs to be pub-

licly supported. They are right that it

would be tragic if something so beauti-

on the same two premises: first, that

opera is a minority enthusiasm, and sec-

ond, that it is inevitably extremely

expensive. Events of the past few weeks

But both sides base their arguments

ful were allowed to die.

The debate over opera has become

command so little public support.

extent of Italian public support.

Opera should play

to the gallery

or make general recommendations about policy. They do not prevent bad ideas becoming bad law.

As to national debate, the twice weekly uvenile point-scoring of Prime Minister's Question Time, the generally low level of attendance and the standard of speaking when important issues are debated all bear testimony to poor service rendered by the House in leading discussion. There s better discussion on many radio phonein shows or on television. Only a handful of MPs (and practically none on the back benches) are so wise that one would cross

the road to hear them speak.

In their candid moments, MPs agree with this. The condition of their work, the powerlessness of the backbencher, the futility of attending the House and its archaic rules, and the odd hours all act as disincentives to those who might otherwise wish to serve, especially able women.

So before any committee looks again at

MPs' pay, there should be a more sweeping review of what sort of job we want these people to do. No sensible company would restructure the pay of its entire workforce without calling in a team of management consultants to examine productivity, quality and customer service. Such a review could consider the case for sharply reducing the number of MPs (we have the largest chamber in the world: the Japanese, Indians and Americans have much larger populations and many fewer MPs); empowering select committees to scrutinise legislation; instigating a rootand-branch reform of parliamentary procedures; and reconsidering the amount that MPs can earn from outside sources,

We know that to get a better quality of MP we should pay a rate comparable to that in the private-sector professions. Yet to raise MPs' pay, without being much clearer about what we want from them and how we should measure their performance, would be stupid.

Opera has a huge potential audience. This weekend, Raymond Gubbay's new

production of La Bohème at the Royal

Albert Hall will open to a packed audience.

many of whom have never darkened the

doors of Covent Garden. Plenty of people

are prepared to pay to listen to opera -

even if they will not tolerate the soaring



'One just can't live on the sort of backhanders one gets nowadays'

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### Performance-related pay in the Commons

From Dr R. I. Jones Sir: MPs are suggesting that the Nolan committee should take on the role of a pay review body "MPs unite to demand an increase in salaries", 31 January). Should this happen, may I suggest that the committee adhere strictly to the following points of principle, reiterated many times by the present Government.

No extra money will be forth-coming, any increase in salaries for MPs must be found from savings elsewhere in the parliamentary budget. Any pay increase must be justified by a demonstrated increase in productivity (for example, by "downsizing" the House of Commons and requiring MPs to represent larger

Pay should be performancerelated (perhaps by relating pay to time spent in the House, or to the number of complaints from 31 January

constituents successfully resolved by an MP). In relation to this last point, some system of league tables should be devised and published annually to demonstrate the relative performance of individual MPs, preferably a system that involves an inordinate amount of paperwork. Yours faithfully,

31 January From Mr Ken Lomax Sir: In order to prevent highquality teachers, doctors, nurses and social workers - to name just a few - from abandoning their jobs, perhaps we should double their pay?

Ken Lomax ... s St Hugh's College

R. I. JONES

From Dr C. R. Legg Sir. Why are Conservative MPs whining about their pay? Increas-ing the workload of public-sector workers while eroding their pay through inflation is one of the cornerstones of Government economic policy. They call it "making efficiency gains". Surely MPs should be proud to be contribut-

ing to the economic success of the

Yours faithfully, CHARLES LEGG Department of Psychology The City University London, EC1

From Mrs Christine Smith Sir: Perhaps MPs could ask their constituents to vote them a rise, Yours faithfully, London, El

#### Children's views | Not all had news

From Professor Philip Graham Sir: Bryan Appleyard's discussion of the child's right to privacy Glare that marks for life", 29 January) is welcome. It is, indeed, an important principle that the interests of children involved in public controversy should be protected.

prices, social grandeur or long hours at the more establishment institution. Mr Gubbay's presentation demon-But there is another principle he raises only to discount, namely strates something even more important: that children's own views in these opera does not have to cost a fortune if matters should be taken into it can reach a wide enough audience. account. Bryan Appleyard sug-Tickets cost no more than £37, and with no Arts Council subsidy to help him, gests that children, if asked about such publicity, might he "dazzled Guhbay still hopes to make a profit. by the idea of fame", and that Meanwhile, five minutes spent watching the BBC's fly-on-the-wall documenmany of them want to "drink, smoke, gamble, or have sex". tary The House is enough to persuade the

most ardent opera enthusiast that much But there is plenty of evidence that most children and young of the Royal Opera House's money is wasted on incompetent decisions, archaic people, at any rate from the time traditions and restrictive practices. they enter secondary school, are quite capable of providing a Covent Garden gets the best principals in the world, exhibits spectacular sets and intricate costumes and delivers continucoherent and valuable view on a whole range of subjects. Their autonomy should be encouraged, ous variety. But the Royal Opera House not trivialised. needs more commercial management Yours sincerely,

and greater financial discipline. It also needs to learn lessons from Mr Gubbay. Opera started as a commercial mass entertainment in the central Europe's

concert halls. It needs to return to its roots.

From Mr Neil Roberts Sir: As a senior examiner and recently retired deputy head, I have read the recent educational articles and leaders in your newspaper with increasing exasperation. From them, who would have thought that the past decade has seen substantial increases in pass rates at both GCSE and A-level, similar startling advances

a much greater number of young people gaining university places? All this, it would seem, is failure because we have not caught up with Germany. France and Japan (after having, in England, at least, until very recently thought that only the top 20 per

in the staying-on rate post-16, and

belief that appears to die hard in the continuing nostalgia for grammar schools). It is small wonder that many

were really worth educating, a

dismissed as retreats. Yours sincerely, NEIL ROBERTS

cash to build mosques", 25 Jan-

uary), would such a restoration

be a suitable project for the Mil-

lennium? After all, it was his

ancestor who initiated their

Branson shares

From Ms Jackie McQuillan

Sir: In an article that appeared on

27 January, your science corre-spondent, Charles Arthur, said that many of the 91 sponsors of

Richard Branson's project to fly

a belium halloon non-stop

around the world have found

themselves edged out of the

media spotlight, to their growing

annoyance. This statement is not

the patron, Richard Branson and

the rest of the team have spent a

considerable amount of time in

working with and thanking the

many smaller sponsors, without

whose help this project would not have been possible. This has been

Correction: A sentence in Vernon

Bogdanor's letter, published yesterday,

should have read "Sir Richard Jrather

than "The Government" has also

chosen to mount a running commen-

fully acknowledged by them.

Yours sincerely

29 January

JACKIE MCQUELLAN

tary during the inquiry."

Project Co-ordinator

Virgin Global Challenge London, W8

Although Virgin Atlantic and Phileas Fogg are the principal sponsors and Matthew Harding

the spotlight

30 January

destruction.

M. J. Fox

26 January

Scarborough,

North Yorkshire

Yours faithfully,

#### Royal reparations

From Mrs M. J. Fox Sir: Often, when I have been visiting ruined monasteries and abbeys, I have thought how interesting it would be to see at least one of these buildings restored to

its original glory.
In view of Prince Charles's comments ("Prince wants lottery

#### not complacent. We want to offer as much protection as possible to the victims of this abhorrent

teachers in state schools look upon politicians and journalists, particularly those who are London-hased, with cynicism. A debate about perceptions of the London educational scene - and no doubt of pressing concern for those politicians and journalists as parents - is being transposed to the country as a whole, and very real advances are being

Sir: True country dwellers may well say good riddance to Henry and Dinah (leading article; "An everyday tale of non-country folk\*, 29 January), but I cannot agree that the fewer people there are in the countryside the better. Larger farms and increasingly mechanised agriculture have

From Mrs Rosemary Lincoln

Rural bliss

given us the empty countryside of today. They have also led to impoverishment of the environment and loss of wildlife. Encouraging the development of smaller mixed farms could

help to revitalise the countryside, providing much-needed employ-ment, and ultimately making it a more attractive place for visiting town-dwellers. Yours faithfully, ROSEMARY LINCOLN Great Glemham, Suffolk

#### Army helps others but not its own

From Mr David C. Allen team recognises the efforts of the Army in assisting with their train-

vs Wales match.

#### team game, no longer appears to have sufficient resources to coach

Irvine Insurance Brokers

razioni Generali.

Yours faithfully.

Learnington Spa.

PETER IRVINE

Warwickshire

Sir: On 29 January you published a photograph of the England Women's Rugby Union team being trained by army instructors at Arborfield Garrison. I trust the ing for the forthcoming England

What a shame that the Army,

### a high level of rugby skills to its

This fact is especially poignant as Arborfield, home to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers apprentice college, has an admirable history of colts rugoy, and yet was used to do for others what the Army used to take jus-tifiable pride in doing for its OWD.

so long a bastion of the greatest

#### DAVID C. ALLEN Newbury, Berkshire

Yours faithfully,

#### Freshers' levy From Professor John Griffith Sir: For the Committee of Vice-

Chancellors and Principals to impose a levy on students entering universities ("Universities threaten £300 levy on freshers". 30 January) would be a shameful abandonment of principle and an act of wilful discrimination against those least able to afford it. Yours faithfully, JOHN GRIFFITH Marlow, Buckinghamshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime ne number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

#### Sic transit Cassius

From Mr Stephen Jessel Sir. No, no. no. Caesar adsum ian forte, Brutus aderat. Pompey sed givus sum, Brutus sed tubet. Given the unappetising nature of the refreshments it is entirely possihle, even likely, that those taking part were later unwell (letter, 30 January). Yours faithfully,

From Mr Terence Fahey Sir. In my schooldays, it was Cas-

sius, not Brutus: Caesar ad sum iam forte; Cassilis, "passus sum". sedi. And no one was sic at all. Yours faithfully, TERENCE FAHEY London SE13

# Realistically speaking, I'm a pessimist

Yesterday I brought you a test which was designed to let readers find out if they were optimists, pessimists or realists. Reaction to the test was mixed, which was exactly what I had hoped - a third felt more hopeful afterwards, a third felt even gloomier and the other third felt their lives were completely unehanged. Excellent!

However, all scientific tests need verifying and repeating from time to time, so I am bringing you a new series today. All you have to do is rick the reaction you think is nearest to your own. In each case, the optimist's option is first, the pessimist's is second and the realist's is third.

I. As you pass an empty telephone box, the phone starts ringing. Your tinctive reaction is to:

a) Answer it and say helpfully, "I suppose you know you have just telephoned an empty phone box which I

happened to be passing?"

b) Answer it and say, unhelpfully, "Samaritans here, could you hold on a moment. I'm talking on the other line to a man with a mobile phone who is standing on the parapet of Tower Bridge ..." and put the phone down again.

e) Assume h is the Duke of Edinburgh trying to get through to someone, and decide not to get involved.



2. On a freezing cold morning, you

"Mmm - nice and fresh today! b) "Oh God, oh God, oh God, oh God, oh God, it's cold." c) Nothing at all, for fear of letting the

r enter your mouth. 3. When you are served a meal on an aircraft, you hope the main dish will

a) That really nice chicken you had last time on a flight because, despite everything they say, aircraft food has got better over the years and sometimes it is surprisingly tasty.

Mercifully unidentifiable. When you get to the end of a chequebook, you are not surprised to find written inside the back cover. a) That vital telephone number you jotted down one day and which you thought you would never find again. b) An apparently vital telephone number which unfortunately has no name attached to it. c) Somebody's name and telephone number, neither of which do you

PHILIP GRAHAM

London, EC1

National Children's Bureau

5. When you take your seat in an air-craft and glance at the person in the adjoining seat who will be your neighbour for the next few hours, you: a) Know from experience that someone with so unprepossessing an exter-ior appearance often turns out to be

a fascinating, well-travelled person with a fund of interesting anecdotes. b) Know from experience that someone so young, attractive and, let's face it, sexually appealing is usually as thick as two short planks and boring with it. e) Feign sleep immediately.

When you feel a hand on your shoulder in the street, you automatically assume it is: a) An old friend you have not seen for

b) An old friend you have been avoiding for years.
e) The police. When you light a match to set fire to the rolled-up newspaper at the bot-tom of a bonbre in your garden, you

know in your heart of hearts that:

a) The newspaper will burn beauti-

fully, even if it does not actually

ignite any of the rest of the bonfire.

b) The match will blow out before even reaches the newspaper.
e) Just as the newspaper catches fire nicely, you realise it was a cutting you had carefully laid aside containing

vital information for your work. 8. When someone asks for a light, you put your hand in the pocket which contains something the same shape and size as a box of matches and when you pull it out you find it is: a) A box of matches. b) An empty box of matches

e) A small container of dental floss. When you open a newspaper at random to find something of interest, you always find yourself reading:

a) A piece on space science which at last explains anti-matter in terms which even you can understand. b) Another dreary pseudo-scientific

piece on anti-matter. c) An interview with Michael Portillo which lays the blame for anti-matter fairly and squarely at Labour's door. 10. When you are waiting for a bus, the first thing that comes along is: al A friend in a car who kindly stops to give you a lift.

b) A friend in a car who would stop to give you a lift if he noticed you nding there, but he does not. c) A bus with a number quite like, but not exactly like, the number of the bus vou nced.

لكذا من ألاصل

criminal law to deal with stalkers. . .

Parliamentary Under-Secretary Sir The Cambridgeshire police, like so many others nowadays, confuse ends with means. Their end was not to make themselves: comfortable, but to prevent rape. In that they have failed. What

Sir: Your feature on La Fenice (31 January) is touching and no doubt many people worldwide will put money towards this should ensure that the cost of

ment is not already covered by an appropriate insurance policy. If the theatre management have their wits about them, it should not be necessary for Luciano, and others, to dip into their millions. Also, there will be no lack of insurance advice in Venice - half the Piazza is housed by Assicu-

STEPHEN JESSEL

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لكذا عن ألاصل

Kenneth Clarke is under attack from his own people, but his downfall would be theirs, too

In most periods of human history, aspiring Great Ones were inclined to deal with rivals by throttling, dismemberment, poison, defenestratation or skewering. These days, they spin a line to a cheery hack in the lobby of the House of Commons. This is called progress and it does save on the cleaning fluid. But it can also be just as effective, as Kenneth Clarke can

The boys are going for Ken. The iso-lation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is now common Commons talk. "Poor Ken", we are told, disagrees with the Prime Minister on policy, on tactics, on the size of the state, on Europe. Indeed, he disagrees with everybody these days. The contrived impression is of a podgy maniac of uncertain age picking fights with people in bus queues.

We will investigate the truth of this later. First, though, it is as well to he clear about what is going on, which is that numerous Conservative MPs and some cabinet ministers are fighting the 1997 leadership campaign. They regard Clarke as a potential problem

who might as well be dealt with now. He has never, of course, heen popular on the right of the party. His contempt for the anti-Maastricht Tories is barely disguised. Come to think of it, very little about the Chancellor is disguised. He, rightly, is seen as a central obstacle to the Government deciding to rule out British membership of the single currency.

Up until now, this has angered the Tory right but it has not worried them. Clarke was seen as too leftish to be a credible next leader. The party was

moving against him. This seemed obvious, though he himself always airily dismissed it, taking the view that opinion swung one way, then back again, and one could not plan picnics based on next year's weather.

The right, though, has the problem that it still lacks an agreed candidate to lead the party more vigorously against the welfare state and European entanglements. If the left of the party rallied behind Clarke, the right might yet have a fight on its hands, par-ticularly if the economic record in 1996-97 looks good and Clarke gets the credit.

For once, though, it seems as if the right is not the prime source of the anti-Clarke mood music. It is centrecentre Tories, people such as Malcolm Rifkind, Brian Mawhinney, Gillian Shephard and their supporters whom the Clarke camp are worried about. In the lobbies, the Foreign Secretary is seen by anti-Maastricht campaigners as making a hlatant pitch for their

It is centrists and former Tory leftists making their pilgrimage to the right who would benefit most if Clarke, as one of the last outspoken One Nation, pro-European Tories at the top of the party, was discredited and divided from the Prime Minister. That would leave the field clear for an alternative "healing" candidate.

At this point logicians will ask why, if everybody is speculating about the leadership election that would follow John Major's failure and resignation, it should be thought damaging not to be Major's best friend. Even simple souls may also be wondering a little at



ANDREW MARR

Clarke embodies a still vital section of the Tory coalition

the absolute assumption underpinning this column that Major will be beat

These are good questions. Not least of the effects of the Harriet Harman affair has been its impact on the Prime Minister. His party is still in very deep trouble. It may yet start to crumble, the time of maximum danger being from May to early July, after bad local elections and before the recess, when the Commons is at its hottest and husiest. If there is no collapse, then the election is almost certain to he in spring 1997. But, either way, Major is surely now safe until polling

And possibly he will be safe afterwards. If he wins a workable majority he clearly stays, if only to revel in the discomfiture of his legion of critics. If he wins by a tiny margin, or is plunged into the fevered politics of a hung Parliament, he would also prob-

Granted, neither scenario is expected on the Tory benches. They think they will lose, though not necessarily by very much. (This near-universal view is, by the way, a little odd: if the Conservatives think they are "likely" to lose narrowly, then they must surely entertain the high possibility of winning narrowly, too. A close election is, by definition, unpredictable. But no one yet seems to think this way. It is one leap of the imagin-

Even if they did lose narrowly, it is not obvious that Major would go. With a small Labour majority in the Commons and a large programme of constitutional reform to put through, there would be great opportunities for parliamentary amhushes on issues of huge importance. It would be an odd time for the Tory party to rip itself apart. One Major supporter suggests that 50 or so moderate MPs would implore him to stay as a matter of duty.

ation too far.)

I am running too far ahead. But and this is the point - so are those Conservative plotters. For the time heing, Major is not a looming vacancy but the most important player of all. And a year is a long time in politics.

How is Clarke's relationship with him? There is no sign of trimming from the Chancellor. He has not moved an inch towards the anti-welfare zealotry of the new right. He is openly, and rightly, sceptical about the likelihood of getting the Government's share of national spending down to the 30-35 per cent so easily aired by other ministers, including the

ahly hang on. He does relish that sort Prime one. He refuses to go with the powerful anti-EMU tide.

On all those issues one can indeed see some ideological gap, or at least a gap in style, between Chancellor and Premier. One might guess that Clarke may, in private, be just a little con-temptuous of Major's eye for political fashion - and that he feels the same about once pro-European ministers who have suddenly become convinced that the single currency is dead.

That, though, does not take us to the split being talked up in the Commons corridors. On public expenditure and interest rates, the Treasury is delivering what has been asked of it. Tension between Numbers 10 and 11 is present - as it usually is. If Major were to push a harder anti-state agenda for the manifesto, it could worsen. But tension is not warfare.

The truth is that Clarke, however lonely he feels today, embodies a still vital section of the Tory coalition, close to the central consensus on welfare and close to business on European issues. Without it the party would become a minority sect, ceding to Labour the entire centre-ground of British politics.

The party may find him infuriating, obsolete and abrasively outspoken. But even his Conservative enemies need Clarke and what he stands for. Doing him in would, in reality, do in the Tory party. That the Tories apparently fail to realise this is about the only piece of good news that Labour has had for the past formight.

In fact, the greatest obstacle to the Conservative Party's re-election hope is now the Conservative Party itself.

there are powerful forces encouraging

companies to look beyond their

domestic markets and sell to the

world. But the increased efficiency

brought by technology is cutting the

Until quite recently, for at least 100

years, the trend in business has been

for bigness. Big companies hired the

best people and got higger; banks

merged because big companies

demanded hig banks to finance them;

supermarkets and chain stores came

to dominate our shopping; other com-

mercial groups were formed because

only by clustering together could the

companies acquire national, or inter-

of thumh has been that you have to be

The talk now is of

'core competence' or

some similarly cute.

expression

For the past decade or so the rule

national, marketing presence.

unit size of each operation.

### It's Magic back on the court

The return of Earvin Johnson to basketball signals a change in Aids awareness, says Rupert Cornwell

ple around the world, infected with the late 20th century's equivalent of leprosy, have been given new hope of leading a normal life and of being able to do what they want to do. Last hut not least, one of the most hypnotically appealing athletes of recent decades is back on his rightful stage. Not bad for a single, run-of-the-mill basket-ball game.

Of course, what happened in south central Los Angeles on Tuesday evening was anything hut an ordinary mid-season NBA fixture; rather, it was the sort of comeback story that even the dream peddiers of Tinsel Town might have had qualms about putting on the silver screen. For after four years of exile, Earvin "Magic" Johnson was hack on a basketball court in the yellow and hlue strip of the LA Lakers making

well, magic.
Dry statistics will tell future generations that the Lakers defeated the Golden State Warnors 128-118, and that Johnson scored 19 points. But they will never convey the sheer joy that permeated the sell-out crowd at the Great Western Forum, where \$30 tickets were fetching \$1,000 before the game. Nor can they catch the man himself at the press conference afterwards - that old loping way of talking, the huge halogen smile and the sheer disbelief in his eyes: "I never thought I'd be back. You go out there and you just say, ooohhh man...

Basketball players are not supposed to make comebacks at 36, especially not after having been forced from the sport when they were diagnosed with the Aids virus. Johnson was the first household-name athlete known to have tested HIVpositive when he first bowed out in November 1991. Only afterwards was it revealed that the late Wimbledon champion, Arthur Ashe, had contracted the disease through a contaminated blood transfusion, and double Olympic diving gold the AZT drug in 1991, even medallist Greg Louganis confessed he had known he carried the virus when he gashed his head during the finals of the 1988 games in Seoul. America still loved Magic,

the man who, almost single-handed, in the Eighties made basketball a mega-sport. It even forgave him the countless extramarital sexual encounters, of which one had caused his predicament. Subtly, though, it turned him into a pariah. When he led the US "dream team" in the 1992 Olympics, there were his joh.

A sporting injustice has been attempts to ostracise him. In perfect condition despite the perfect condition despite the infection, Johnson wanted to play in the following NBA sea-son. But his colleagues would not have him, fearful not only of catching the disease but of a guilt by association - maybe they shared the same girls. Now attitudes to Aids are changing.

Johnson, of course, should never have been kept away from the game. Apart from one claimed incident in an amateur football game in Italy about which researchers are sceptical, there is not a single case of the Aids virus being transmitted through contact in a sporting contest. The odds of an NBA player catching it after

You get the virus from unprotected sex, not from playing basketball'

scrape with Johnson have

been put at more than 8 hillion

"What really got me was how, in the very first minute I was on court, the guys were coming after me," Johnson said of his instant readmission to the rough and tumble of major league professional sport. And why not? As one of his Golden State opponents noted afterwards, "The NBA players are smart enough to know you get the virus from unprotected sex. and we're not going to have unprotected sex on the hasketball court."

In the population at large, too, that point has been taken and the spread of Aids in the US does seem gradually to be slowing. But Johnson's comehack provides Aids researchers with an opportunity to monitor the effects of strenuous physical activity on the progress of the disease. Johnson's health has been consistently excellent since he began treatment with though his 6ft 9in frame has gained an extra 27th. His diet. physical fitness and sleep pattern are a doctor's dream, and most specialists believe the two or three games a week NBA schedule should not have any adverse effect. Indeed, as one said yesterday, for Magic Johnson "the real risk is a heart

Meanwhile, for millions who are HIV-positive there is the simple inspiration of watching one of their number just doing his he

ins de. he si-

# Big is no longer beautiful

The break-up of the Hanson empire signals a shift in favour of the medium-sized company

Stick 'em together, rip 'em apart, for this is the age of the Velcro company. Or that might seem the appropriate response to Lord Hanson's announcement that he plans to split up into four constituent parts the company he and the late Lord White glued together over the past 40 years. So this is to be the end game, the final fate of the Anglo-American commercial giant which, as Glenda Jackson's memorable TV ads used to tell us, was om over here but also doing rather well over there.

Ms Jackson, now Labour MP for Hampstead, has moved on to higher things, but does this break-up mean that her message has moved on, too? Is Hanson no longer doing rather



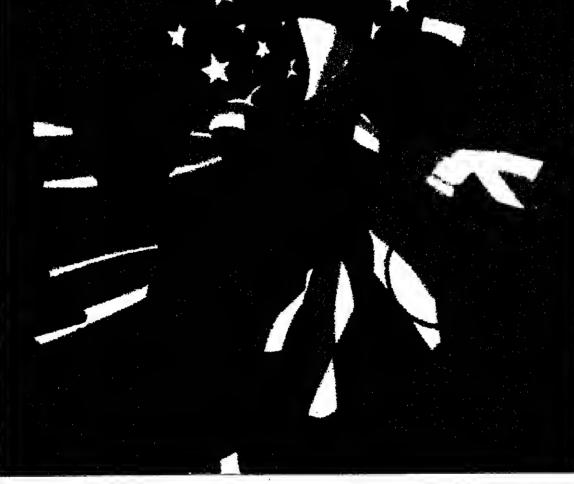
It's doing all right, but not as well as it used to - which raises questions about its leadership and its structure. Leadership: it is always worth remembering that companies which owe their creation and growth to a sin-gle strong personality rarely outlive their creator's death, or even retirement. The most spectacular recent example was the collapse of the late Robert Maxwell's empire. But in a way it was also true of the Forte group: built up by the father, lost by the son.

I suspect, too, this will be true in time

of Rupert Murdoch's media empire, which, far from retaining its global reach, will be split up into separate businesses. And, further into the future perhans, so, too, will the curious, illogical by in its own way, wonderful entity being assembled by Richard Branson. Illogical? Yes, tell me the core competence that links pop music (where the fortune was made) to airlines, to financial services, to consumer products such as cola and vodka. There is none - just competent product development and a genius at self-publicity.

James Hanson is unusual among empire-builders in being wholly aware that the business could not survive him His partner, Lord White, who was just as important a part of the duo, recently died. But even before Lord White's death, Hanson would talk openly about the future of the business after the two of them had gone.

So he is planning to create a busi-



that can continue, presumably under the guidance of his son, Robert. Chop off the bits that don't fit, and leave a core business that will still attract sup-

port from the fund managers. He is doing precisely what Lord Forte failed to do before passing over managerial control of Trusthouse Forte to his son, Rocco. Rocco realised this in the desperate last few days before the takeover by Granada, but only started to cut the business into pieces (and step down from the role as chairman) when capital punishment loomed. Had Rocco acted earlier, or Lord Forte earlier still, the family would have retained control.

This leads to the second element of the explanation: the structure. What makes a company decide which businesses it should be involved in? After all, any large company can go out and buy and sell other ones. Hardly a day goes by without some news of a corness that is sustainable, something porate restructuring: x company buy-

ing y division of 2 group. What drives There is precious little in Granada, for It is partly fashion among the fund

managers. Fifteen or 20 years ago the fashion was for conglomerates, groups of different companies locked together by a supposedly superior manage-ment. Hanson was a prime example, and so would tend to win hacking for each new takeover. Now, the fashion has changed and fund managers prefer their companies in neat categories. The talk is of "core competence" or some similarly cute expression. So competencies, just as Courtaulds was broken up into a textile and a chemicals business, or ICI hived off Zeneca, its pharmaceuticals arm.

But fashion is not the whole answer. Look at the way the market backed Granada against Forte. There was at enables them to become smaller. least some sort of vague logic in Forte, though motorway cafés may not seem ferent countries, you need bases in to have much to do with luxury hotels.

motorway cafés have even less to do with Coronation Street or World in Action. I often think that the City's logic in supporting takeovers or encouraging demergers comes down to backing people whose judgement they trust. If a management runs a business well, it will be able to get support to run others; if it makes a hash of things, it will eventually be kicked out. In other words good leadership matters just as

much as logical structure. But seeing this Hanson break-up Hanson is being broken up into core makes me wonder whether there isn't something else happening, a fundamental change in the optimal size of companies. The glue that holds firms together has certainly become weaker. Globalism, in general, forces companies to become bigger, but technology

If you want to operate in many dif-

either very big or very small, a super-market or a boutique, General Motors or TVR. The one thing you must not be is somewhere in the middle. But that trend will not go on for ever, either. Every hig company is down-sizing its labour force (usually while asserting that its most important asset is its people) and outsourcing all sorts of services that it previously would have done for itself. This creates opportunities for small and mediumzed companies. These, thanks to the revolution in

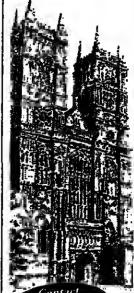
the information business, can acquire many of the skills and knowledge of larger ones. Indeed, because they are more nimble, they can use these more efficiently than their higger cousins. Even giants push out more and more services to such specialists, including. when they hire management consultants, management itself.

Clearly, Lord Hanson realises that Hanson as a giant company has no future. I would like to think he's right: that we are escaping the tyranny of higness, and moving to a world where doing something well matters more than doing more of it, where we are not forced into a homogeneous culture of identical hrand names, identical high streets, identical shopping malls, identical boutiques. The Hanson break-up does not of itself, suggest that any of this is happening. But it does show that being big over there or over here is not as important

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# Reporters don't start riots

To mark his third anniversary as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. Sir Paul Condon let rip in a radio interview and tried to discredit The Voice newspaper by accusing us of seing inflammatory and wildly irre-possible, and fuelling discontent. His condescending tone was because we dare to do what every other newspaper does - report the facts. We printed an anonymous eyewitness account of police arresting a young blackman, Wayne Douglas, who later

died in police custody. The witness asked for anonymity. After serious consideration we agreed, because of his powerful six-page sworn affidavit, his emotional turnoil and his Fromise that he would be willing to

give evidence in court. Unfortunately, a peaceful demon-stration then turned into a disturbance

for which Sir Paul criticises our "inflammatory" reporting. We condemn violence in any shape or form and we unequivocally stated our displeasure about the disruption, which only diverted attention from the important issue of deaths in custody.

He forgets that over the past two decades there have been disturbances on Britain's streets triggered by strained relations between the police and the black community with no prompting from The Voice.

If Sir Paul has a complaint about any article we print, then he should go through the proper channels. He did not complain to the Press Complaints Commission, nor did he contact us for

ANOTHER VIEW

Annie Stewart a right of reply - which he would have

been granted. Calls have been made for his resignation, but that is too simple an answer. Sir Paul started his tenure in good stead, seeming to understand that there were problems between his officers and the black community. Internally he set out to increase the quota of hlack officers in the Metropolitan force, and externally he listened to what the community was saying. But by pouring scorn on our stories, especially when they highlight the failings of his officers, he is now ignoring the voices of many ordinary, law-abiding black people who contribute to the upkeep of the force. Each week our newsdesk is mun-

dated with calls from people who claim to have experienced police harassment. We investigate every one and sometimes find that the police were only doing their jobs. But we cannot ignore that many in the community feel aggrieved by the treatment they receive from Sir Paul's officers.

The freedom of the press is an extremely important commodity in every democratic society. It ensures The writer is editor of The Voice'.

highlights events that many would like to cast asunder. The majority of hlack people are law-abiding citizens who condemn lawlessness and criminality. but we as a hlack newspaper cannot stand by and do nothing when heavyhanded and unjust policing becomes an issue in our community. When Wayne Douglas died, the

that everybody, especially the poor

and maligned, gets a fair hearing and

mainstream media completely ignoted the story. An eyewitness came forward and we thought it was our duty to make public his statement. Sir Paul, however, did not like the message and so decided to shnot the

But the message is valid and we would do the same again.

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

# Fed cuts US interest rates by a quarter point

The US Federal Reserve cut in-terest rates by a further quarter point yesterday following signs that the economy was weakening and inflation was un-der control. The Fed trimmed the key federal funds rate at which banks lend to one another overnight from 5.5 to 5.25

Shares had dropped in advance of the Fed meeting due to profit-taking. After setting

records for three days running, the Dow Jones index had fall-en almost 30 points before the Fed's decision. The dollar had eased nearly half a pfennig against the mark to DM1.4870 after the German move.

Wall Street's earlier surge this week had reflected mounting hopes of an interest rate reduction as economic activity continued to disappoint and in-

Although some analysts were still cautious about whether the Federal Reserve would act today or wait until its next meeting in March, a slightly disappointing December figure for factory gate prices yesterday did nothing to dent the finan-cial markets' hopes.

Prices charged by manufac-turers rose 0.5 per cent last month, mainly due to a recovery in energy prices from an ear-

lier dip. The "core" prices mea-sure, excluding food and ener-gy, rose only 0.1 per cent in the month and 2.5 per cent in the year to December. Christopher Low, an analyst

at HSBC Markets in New York, said: "This figure will not worry the Fed one iota about inflation." Nor did it offset the impact on market sentiment of earlier news of a dismal Christmas for retailers and a drop in consumer

confidence to its lowest level for thorities' concern with the eco-

nearly two years.
The Bundesbank cut its main money market interest rate, the repo rate, from 3.55 to 3.4 per cent yesterday, the fourth reduction in as many weeks, and a bigger fall than expected.

The move came despite news of faster than-expected growth in M3, the Bundesbank's monctary target, earlier in the week. Analysts said it showed the aunomic slowdown.

Hopes of an early reduction in the discount rate, which sets the floor for other interest rates, were revived. Dietrich Beier, an economist at Bankgesellschaft Berlin, said: "It shows the Bundesbank has no reason at all to hit the hrakes."

The Bundesbank reduced the discount rate by half a point to 3 per cent on 14 December.

eral funds rate by a quarter point to 5.5 per cent on 19

December. The international trend towards lower interest rates contributed to the success of a gilts auction in Britain. There were total bids of £5.9bn for the £3bn worth of stock up for anction, and the "tail" between the average and highest yield was a narrow two basis points.

#### Vauxhall profits collapse to £3m

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

The gloom in Britain's car industry deepened with a collapse in profits at Vauxhall, the UK company owned by General Motors of the US. Vauxhall hlamed a stagnant UK market caused by lack of consumer confidence as well as industrial action by employees for a shamp in profits to £3m last year from £79m in 1994.

The company also blamed the weakness of the pound against other European currencies and the costs associated with a big factory up-grade at Luton. One industry source who would not be named said Vauxhall's performance was further affected by disappointing sales of the new Vectra, the replacement for the Cavalier, in the face of fierce competition for the all-important fleet buyer. The situation is set to be exacerbated with the forthcoming launch by Peugeot of a replacement for its 405 model, he said.

Vauxhalf's chamman, Charles Golden, said: "Our 1995 prof-it was disappointing, but we knew it would be a difficult year, with our financial performance adversely affected by some exceptional costs. We are looking to improve our results in 1996.

"The rehictance of UK private buyers to take the plunge and huy a new car highlighted the persistent lack of confidence which has had a numbing effect on the retail car market," he added.

Expressing disappointment that the year's performance was worsened by industrial action over pay in December, Mr Golden said: 'As an industry, we are far from out of the woods in terms of global competitiveness." But be added: "Now that our three-year pay agreement has been accepted by the workforce we have to concentrate on further cost reduction to improve Vandhall's results.

Vauxhali's total wholesale sales of cars and light commercial vans was down by 1.5 per cent at 420,727 units in 1995. 5.3 per cent to 294,859, while to-tal production was down by 7.3 per cent at 242,859, partly because of the change from the Cavalier to the Vectra. But exports from the factories at Luton and Ellesmere Port plants rose by 10.5 per cent to 103,300

Maccutive Edea VI

laboads three business

Vauxhall said the performance occurred in a difficult car sector which has seen growth of only 1.8 per cent during 1995 and a 2.5 per cent fall in retail sales.

### Clarke and George at odds over last base cut DIANE COYLE month's move, the Chancellor **Economics Correspondent**

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of

the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, clashed over the reduction in the cost of borrowing earlier this month in their course of this year.
biggest disagreement about City economists said Mr biggest disagreement about policy since last spring. City

analysts concluded yesterday. Minutes of their previous meeting revealed that the Chancellor almost certainly reiected the Governor's advice when he cut interest rates for the second time in five weeks, The Bank of England's silence about the move had already aroused suspicions of a clash.

Mr George agreed to a quarter-point interest rate reduction in December but warned against a bigger cut, "It would look as if the top priority were no longer the attainment of the inflation target," he said.

If minutes of January's meeting - due out on 21 February -

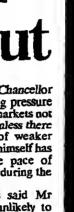
will be under strong pressure from the financial markets not to cut rates again unless there is new evidence of weaker growth. Mr Clarke himself has predicted that the pace of growth will pick up during the

Marian Bell at Royal Bank of when to change interest rates."

said cost and price pressures had eased considerably, and it was now "more likely than not"

George was very unlikely to have changed his mind in the nounced the second quarter-

Scotland said: "This demonstrates that monetary policy is a completely political process because the Chancellor decides In December, Mr George



weeks before the Chancellor anpoint fall in hase rates to 6.25 per cent. "These minutes confirm the suspicion that the January meeting did not go smoothly," said Robert Barrie, UK economist at BZW.

> in base rates. However, the Governor argued that it ought to be a quar-

A case could be made for a cut whether rates should fall but by men will have increased in the how much - and he was sympathetic to the view that it should be half a point.

Mr Clarke opted to accept the Governor's advice last ter-point reduction. Rapid growth of money and credit and month. But he went on to trim another quarter point from the the fact that January is a key month for pay settlements meant he would not advise a bigger cut. level of base rates on 17 Januconfirm that Mr Clarke and Mr that inflation would be under The Chancellor replied that ary despite worse monetary figGeorge were split over last the 2.5 per cent target in 1997. the question in his mind was not ures. The gap between the two ing them in May last year.

Their disagreement in January was the third under the present monetary arrangements. The Chancellor rejected the Governor's advice against re-

Wise choice: Kenneth Clarke meets the new Treasury panel of independent forecasters. The panel, which used to be known as the 'wise men', but now includes two women, is (left to right) Patrick Minford, Bridget Rosewell, Gavyn Davies, Martin Weale, Kate Barker and Tim Congdon.

Photograph: Russell Boyce, Reuter

meantime," said Don Smith, an

economist at HSBC Markets.

ducing base rates in February 1994 and in favour of increassurprising that they sometimes disagree. What matters is whether they quickly come back into line. Financial markets would be alarmed if the Chancellor cut

David Mackie, UK economist

at JP Morgan, said: "It is not

the cost of borrowing again in the face of Bank of England ad-

measure has climbed into donhle figures for the first time in five years, and retail spending has picked up. Mr Clarke and Mr George

are next due to meet on 7 February, a week before the Bank of England publishes its quarterly Inflation Report.

Recent figures show that growth in the broad money

# Pearson shares climb further as bid rumours spread

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

Shares in Pearson, the potential bid candidate, continued to climh yesterday, as market attention focused on it for the second day running. Pearson has risen 16p to 666p in two days' trading, as rumours circulated that members of the Cowdray family, who control about 10 per

cent of the shares, could be willing to sell at the right price.
The speculation followed re-

ports in the Independent on Tuesday that Granada, the television and leisure company that last week won a takeover battle for Forte, had considered mounting a hid for Pearson last year at up to £9 a share, or £50n. According to estimates pre-pared by Henderson Crosthwaite. Pearson is easily worth £9 a share to a bidder looking to hreak up the company.

The market has taken the view that Pearson is a major po-tential bid candidate," Louise Barton, analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, said. "There is a store of hidden value, and it hasn't been agressively managed." Analysts predicted that Pearson itself would consider de-

merger in the course of 1996. Earlier this month, it announced a new management structure, placing the three core business lines under sep-

arate executive control. NatWest Securities yesterday changed its recommendation on Pearson from "reduce" to "bold", and advised that the company was a "prime candifor demerger.

"It is important in this environment that companies stick to their knitting, doing what they know best," Andrew Walsh at Nat West said.

Pearson declined to comment on the speculation. A spokesman said: "We look at the structure all the time. We have just announced new reporting lines and you can assume those changes reflect careful thought

about the structure and how we want to develop it in the future. The trend toward hiving off disparate businesses has swept the market, but has come late to

the media sector, according to analysts.

Most recently, Thorn EMI has announced plans to spin off

its music and entertainment arm. According to NatWest, both Pearson and MAL Lord Hollick's media and financial services company, could maximise shareholder value by announcing de-

Informed sources say Pearson Television might be the most obvious candidate for demerger, following a spate of acquisitions in recent months. The prospect of a separate listing for Pearson TV is said to have been discussed internally.

### Conran backs Labour on industry

PETER RODGERS. **Business Editor** 

Sir Terence Conran ~ designer, restaurateur, founder of Habitat and former chairman of Storehouse - attacked the Government for failing to show enthusiasm about manufacturing and said he supported Labour policy and expected the party to win the next election.

Speaking at the launch of six Labour task forces on business policy, Sir Terence endorsed comments by the party's trade and industry spokesman, Margaret Beckett, adding that Britain has the opportunity to be the enterprise centre of Europe - all the signs, the possibilities and the talent is here, Sadly, there doesn't seem to be any government enthusiasm for manufacturing."
He believed there was "much

greater understanding by Labour that the skills that design and innovation can bring to industry will have a very stim-ulating effect on the economy.

the task force on innovation, design, science and technology, whose first meeting yesterday included representatives of SmithKline Beecham, Digital Equipment and Nissan, David Allen, marketing director of Digital and a member of the task force, refused to align himself with Labour but was strongly critical of the shortage



Taking the Tories to task: Sir Terence Conran

Sir Terence is a member of of skills in Britain and the lack of action to create them. Other task forces include executives from Nat West, JP Morgan, British Gas and 3i. who have been invited to join as part of a wide-ranging dialogue between Labour and business on policy for the City, the utilities,

> business and competitiveness. Sir Terence's unequivocal backing for Labour could embarrass some of the other participants in the task forces, which have been set up to give practical advice from experts on how the detail of Labour's industrial policies should be formulated, on the understanding that involvement does not mean

> competition, innovation, small

a commitment to the party. Sir Terence said later. "This is a non-political project which we hope to support because we care about the future of Britain. I don't think any one of us want to be seen as strong Labour or

Tory supporters."
The views of the task forces will not be binding on Labour policymakers when they draft documents in the summer for the party conference. But they are expected to be influential. There are already signs that policies on the utilities and competition may be watered down to meet criticisms by the task forces. Reform of regulation is expected to take account of the wider role of the utilities

importance to the consumer. fa competition policy, the promise to make companies prove mergers are in the public interest may be modified, by keeping the impact on competition as the main criterion. Mrs Beckett said Labour

in the economy as well as their

needed to provide workable solutions to real problems. She said Ian Lang, president of the Board of Trade, arrogantly demanded industry's support at the CBI conference while failing to win its respect. "It is Labour which is speaking with industry and commerce in a process of ongoing dialogue and consultation," she added.

#### Bank mounts defence of supervisory role

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

The Bank of England gave a vigorous defence yesterday of its role as supervisor of the banking sector, saying now is not the time to risk radical reform of

regulation and supervision.

The Bank's record as a supervisor compares favourably with countries such as the US and Japan, the Bank argued in a concerted effort to rebut the wave of criticism unleashed by the Barings crisis.

The Labour Party is considering stripping the Bank of its supervisory role and creating an independent Banking Commission, while Treasury thinking also favours consolidating supervision and regulation into an integrated, central City body.

"The net benefits of leaving the supervision of banks with the Bank greatly outweigh the risks of experimenting with rad-

ical institutional change, especially at this uncertain point in the evolution of the world's financial system," wrote Brian Quinn, the Bank's executive director in charge of supervision, in an article for The Scottish Banker.

He calculated the cost to the banking system of bank failures in the UK measured by pay-ments from the Deposit Protection Fund at £144m, some of which could still be recovered. Against this, the cost of failed banks to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in the US is estimated at £20bn over the past decade. Mr Ouinn wrote. In Japan the current banking

crisis has in effect exhausted the Deposit Insurance Fund which stood at £5bn only two years the Bank's track record as a banking supervisor stands comparison with other countries,"

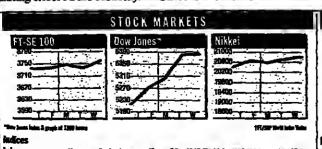
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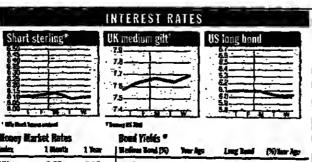
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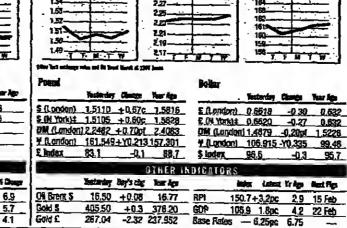
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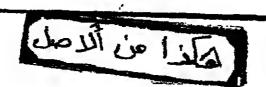


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FTSE 350	1858.00	+12.20	+0.7	1868,00	1482.40	3.76
FT Small Cap	2018.51	+3.39	+0.2	2016.51	1678.61	3.11
FT All Share	1841.96	+11.34	+0.6	1641.96	1469.23	3.71
New York *	5384 83		+0.1	5381.21	3832.08	2.24
Toleyo	20812.74	+90.30	+0.4	20812.74	14485.41	0.75†
Hong Kong	11359.70		+1.4	11356.70	8967.93	3.28†
Frankfurt	2470.14	+34.35	+1.4	2470.14	1910.96	1.831
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**Xenence** 

'Critics have accused the Bank of England of being far too cautious about interest rates dismissing the fact

that the last thing we

want is an incautious

central bank'

COMMENT

utes of the monetary meetings are not too heavily doctored. However, after the previous two disagreements since the arrangements bave heen in place - in February 1994 and May 1995 - the economic evidence has quickly swung the Chancellor's way and changed Mr George's mind. Will Ken be lucky a third time? Recent figures suggest that he might not. Although there are clear signs that shortterm inflationary pressures are fading, other figures suggest that the slowdown in the economy will be short-lived, a contradiction Mr Clarke himself contributed to with his lively Budget growth forecast.

mixed, and reasonable people will sometimes

make different judgements about it. The

clashes also suggest that the published min-

Mr George's message was that the infla-tion target would probably be met, and there was room for a modest cut in hase rates. But he advised Mr Clarke not to go too far too

There are two reasons singled out by the Governor. One was the rising trend in pay settlements. January is one of the most

There is nothing like well publicised disagreements to prove that monetary pol
was worried that being too lax with interest in early 1997.

In agreements to prove that monetary pol
was worried that being too lax with interest in early 1997.

In agreements to prove that monetary pol
was worried that being too lax with interest in early 1997. A agreements to prove that monetary policy arrangements must he working. Or so rates would send the wrong signal. The sec-Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George would ond was the rapidly accelerating pace of money and credit growth. The broad money have us believe Their only big fights are about who is hogging the ashtray, Mr Clarke inmeasure, M4, burst out of the top of its tarsists. He is right to say that the evidence about get growth range in November and climbed the state of the economy is almost always

الكذا عن ألاصل

into double figures last month. Critics have accused the Bank of Eogland of being far too cautious about interest rates - dismissing the fact that the last thing we want is an incautious central hank. At least Mr George has changed his advice when the evidence moves on. In the year before a general election it is probably too much to hope that Mr Clarke will change his mind if his luck runs out and the figures go against him this time. But if he did, in that case, accept that there was no room for more reductions in interest rates this year, he would definitely prove that the monetary arrangements are

#### Alliance goes for the fast track

ast in, first out - that appears to be the Alliance & Leicester's strategy. It is the final one of the hatch of huilding societies widely tipped to abandon mutuality for hank and plc status to make the formal decision. But the lengthy preparations behind settlements. January is one of the most important months for settlements, which at speed, enabling Alliance to leapfrog Hal-

Clarke's luck could run out third time around

There is sense in this. For the sooner the float, the earlier the society benefits from the five-year shield against takeover provided by the Building Society Act. Furthermore, there is going to be a handout of shares to members worth some £15hn on today's calculations during the course of next year. This is a sizeable amount, risking a bout of indigestion in the market. Institutions, notably the tracker funds, will take some onto their

aspirant floaters expect. There are plenty of uncertaintles between then and now, one of which is the tense situation on the mortgage front, where fierce skirmishes threaten 10 escalate into a fullhlown war. This places the floating societies in a bit of a fix. Should they join battle vig orously, they will find a cut in rates quickly punishing the bottom line. Businesses such as Halifax and Woolwich

portfolios, but perhaps not as much as the

are heavily dependent on mortgages. A large slice out of profits would obviously do no good for their float valuations, and for the hopes of those millions of members rubbing their hands at individual windfall sbare handouts worth anything between £500 and £1,000 on average. Moreover, a mortgage war drain on profits would leave the wannabe-hanks more exposed at this vulnerable pre-float stage. Make no mistake, ety at a cheapened price would do very

Alliance & Leicester is probably the safest, having diversified its business. Its position as Britain's leading telephone hanking operation with the Girobank makes it much less exposed to a mortage war of attrition. So the chances are, to save their valuations, Halifax and Woolwich will have to stand clear of a mortgage punch-up. They are counting on the promise of a large free share handout next year being sufficiently attrac-Uve to keep their customers away from the lures of cheaper loans and better savings rates offered by some of their mutual-to-the-death rivals. On that count, they are proh-

#### Bidders sniff around Pearson

The demerger trend has come late to the I red-hot media sector, where companies have been more inclined to expand acrossthe-board (programming, distribution, new and old media) than to concentrate on particular markets. But pressure is huilding on conglomerates to follow the fashion, particularly those with non-media interests mixed into the hargain. At least two candidates for demerger, Pearson and MAI, are

Indeed, if they do not move on their own, hostile hidders may do the work for them. Pearson, once thought to be close to hidproof, is now a potential bid candidate, and is trading well above the range analysts have fixed on fundamentals.

All it takes, say the pundits, is a few members of the Cowdray family to break ranks; institutional sharcholders, so the theory goes, would jump at the chance to cash in.

Pearson is trading at about 660p. Broken up and sold off, it might be worth £9. A less radical option, spinning off the media and entertainment assets, might be worth £7.60 a share. fustitutional shareholders will not be patient if Pearson management, only recently awakened from a sleepy few years at the wheel, cannot tease out value from a spate of investments in media and

publishing.

More to the point, there may be even greater institutional appetite for media stocks in the future. Fund managers will be attracted by growth of about 15 per cent for the sector over the next two years, compared with just 9 per cent for the market as a whole. That follows outperformance of 42 per cent since 1991.

Fund managers, by necessity, will be eyeing company strategies carefully, intent on picking the winners. Increasingly, those winners will be the specialists with focused management, not the grab-bag of disparate assets that some UK media companies bave become.

# Rowland tucks into a monthly tab of £60,000

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

The true running costs of Tiny Rowland. Lonrho's flamboyant former managing director, were published for the first time in the conglomerate's anoual report yesterday. The company spelled out the proportion of his £1.6m annual salary used

for corporate entertainment. In the five months before Mr Rowland was dramatically sacked as a director of the mining, hotels and trading group last March, he reportedly received £272,763 in the form of "benefits in kind". Most of that near £60,000-a-month expense account represented the cost of entertaining husiness contacts and was in addition to a £522,920 salary.

In a detailed hreakdown of salaries and other benefits, to comply with the new demands Tiny Rowland: Refused to of the Greenhury Committee, give details

kind hut the amounts pale into insignificance compared with

Dieter Bock, Mr Rowland's former joint chief executive, received £15,000 in addition to a hase salary of £600,000 during



all Lonrho's hoard is shown to the 12 months to September had only spent 11 days in Africa have received some benefits in 1995. Other executive directors received henefits worth hetween £8,000 and £18,000 ly don't amount to much." Mr Rowland's allowance. for the same period. A note to the accounts point-

edly revealed the composition of those perks: "Benefits in kind comprised mainly the provision of a motor car for the use of each director and the provi-

> ance and, in the case of Mr R W Rowland, the costs of entertaining overseas visitors." Contacted at his country home vesterday Mr Rowland refused to give details of how he had run up the eotertainment hills, but he hit out at the curreot management team that

sion of private medical insur-

had published the details. They didn't even have the decency to show me the figures involved." he said, adding that he planned to write to Lourho's shareholders shortly. His successor, Mr Bock, he claimed. far-flung empire.

since he joined the company: "His expenses in Africa plain-

The hubbling row over Mr Rowland's use of company funds is the latest rift between the maverick multi-millionaire once denounced by Edward Heath as "the unacceptable face of capitalism" and the company he was unceremoniously removed from 10 months ago.

Money, and his use of it, was always a booe of contection between the extravagant Mr Bock, who claims he spent more than £2m of his own money securing political settlement in Mozamhique, and the more parsimonious Mr Bock.

It is understood that when Mr Rowland was cut off from Lonrho, the company also removed other perks such as the executive jet he used to travel to the many countries in Lonrho's



'Why don't you belt up?' Lord Hanson at yesterday's turbulent annual meeting

#### IN BRIEF

#### Chief executive goes at Senior

Senior Engineering, the specialist engineering group, last night announced the resignation of its chief executive, John Bell. He is the third director to leave in little more than a year. The company issued the announcement after the market had closed yesterday and declined to give any reason for Mr Bell's departure. He was paid £174,000 last year and is likely to be paid a substantial sum for loss of office. Kevin Gamble, head of the thermal division, resigned in November. David Bebb, the division's previous managing director, resigned in 1994 with a compensation package of more £800,000, which included the purchase of his house.

#### "TI unloads three businesses

III, the engineering group, has sold three non-core businesses for £44m to a management-led company. Hay Hall Group has acquired TI Desford Tubes, TI Matrix Engineering and Hollow Extrusions with financial support provided by Legal & General Wentures. The three companies made combined profits of £4.5m on sales of £55.7m in 1994. Their sale, which completes the disposal of most of TI's smaller engineering businesses, will lead to an exceptional gain of £22m in the group's accounts.

#### Lloyds Chemists talks to Gehe

Lloyds Chemists is in discussions with the German drug wholesaler Gehe to determine whether it is prepared to top the £532m bid from Unichem. Lloyds has written to shareholders recommending they defer action on the Unichem offer while negotiations take place over the next few days. Some analysts believe that Gehe needs Lloyds to develop the retail side of AAH, the wholesaling and chemists group it bought last year. But Gehe's finances are thought to be constrained by gearing of around 75 per cent, while a rights issue to fund any hid appears to have been

#### Asprey turns to Saatchi brothers

Asprey, the upmarket jewellery group which was rescued by the Sultan of Brunei's brother last year, has appointed M&C Saatchi as its advertising agency. The £6m account is a further scalp for the new agency formed by Maurice and Charles Saatchi.

#### New director for Medeva

Medeva has appointed Gerald Schulze as an executive director with effect from February. Mr Schulze joined the drugs group in September as president and chief executive officer of Medeva Americas, the US arm. He will retain specific responsibility for the group's US operations. Before joining Medeva, Mr Schulze spent 23 years with Pfizer, latterly as vice president of global pharmaceutical

#### Pru confirms top job for Derek Higgs

The Prudential confirmed yesierday the appointment of Derek Higgs, the senior Warburg corporate financier, to run Britain's most powerful investment institution, writes John Eisenhammer.

He expects to take up on 19 Fehruary the position of chief executive of Prudential Portfolio Managers, in charge of £76bo of funds under management. Much of this is inested in the UK, putting Mr Higgs in charge of nearly 4 per cent of the stock market, a position of unrivalled influence in corporate Britain.

The move marks a radical departure for the old-guard Warhurg grandee, who spent 24 years at the former City mer-

chant banking flagship. But he is among several who have been sidelined since the takeover by Swiss Bank Corporation. "I am looking forward to the new start. The time is now right to do something different and give the youngsters their head at SBC Warburg," Mr Higgs said.
"I shall not be leading the

day-to-day handling of the investmeot management team. That distracts from thinking about strategy and the direction of the Pru," he said. "It won't be completely different. My corporate finance hackground should be helpful."

"I don't leave Warburg with unhappiness or disaffection. It has a great future, although there is still work to do."

TOM STEVENSON The slick triumphalism of Han-North American Indians, en-

son's annual meeting yesterday blew up in the conglomerate's face as a constant barrage of heckling reduced the AGM to a farce. From the moment Lord Hanson bounded, breathlessly. onto the stage at London's Barbican Ceotre, vulpine smile from a giant screen, the meeting was reduced to an acrimonious slanging match.

The unexpected appearance of an elegantly-coiffed Roger Moore, regally acknowledging applause for the latest Hanson TV ad in which he stars, added to the ludicrous spectacle. But as the more squeamish sbareholders called for a team of hurly boucers to unhand one particularly agitated woman it

holder anger in the British Gas rettes and chemicals, a certain league, even if the reason for the outrage never fully emerged.

vironmentalists, women - all had their vociferous say in Hanson's most chaotic meeting. Bizarrely, the radical dismemberment of the Hanson empire was mentioned only in passing as the annual meeting as a sensible talking shop joined the idea of the conglomerate on the scrap heap.

A day after the carefully timed announcement of Hanson's four-way split ("hung, drawn and quartered", one of the less hectoring shareholders remarked), such a theatrical celebration was always likely to be a high-risk PR strategy. When your business includes open-cast. amount of confrontation is to be expected.

Already feisty, the sizeable minority of hecklers among the 2,000 or so packed into the meeting treated a saccharine video about Hanson's relationship with its "friends and business partners" in Arizona with the contempt it probably deserved. For one long-standing shareholder the video was a red rag to a hull: "That PR film was an absolute disgrace".

Her view was probably shared by a dignified delegation from the Navajo and Hopi tribes, whose sacred lands they claim Peabody Coal is desecrating, and there was a strange historical irony in a North American Indian woman inmining on Navajo homelands toning a prayer for the souls of

Insults fly at Hanson meeting Harrogate.

Even Lord Hanson, smooth as silk for most of the turbulent 90 minutes, lost his rag at one point: 'Oh, for God's sake, why don't you belt up."

Considering the constituency he was addressing, the ribald re-sponse to Lord Hanson's reference to non-executive director Kenneth Baker's "disunguished record in Parliament" was telling. But it didn't prevent the chairman's fullest explanation of the morning: why Hanson would continue to contribute £100,000 a year to the Conservative Party's coffers.

\*Conditions have improved constantly for companies and individuals under 16 years of Conservative government - re-gardless of all this wittering 1 shall continue."

# DTI put pressure on fraud office over Venables

The Department of Trade and Industry, which is seeking to disqualify Terry Venables as a company director, repeatedly pressed the Serious Fraud Office to start a criminal investigation into the England football coach.

This is revealed in documents relating to the case and seen by the Independent. The documents show that the DTI forwarded 11 alleged offences which they wanted the SFO to examine. Sources who attended a highly

fractions meeting at the SFO in November 1994 have said that when DTI officials realised the SFO would oot take the case, they attempted to start briefing the Prime Minister.

A senior civil servant, Mar-

tin Roberts, told the SFO's di-rector, George Staple, that if the SFO would not change its mind "it was necessary for him to brief his Ministers and for the Private Office to notify No 10".

It would be surprising for

Downing Street to be informed in advance of decisions taken by the SFO, which is an independent prosecuting authority, and indeed yesterday a statement said that No 10 did not have prior warning of the SFO's decision in the Venables case. "We were not informed, nor would we expect to be," a spokesman said vesterday.

However, papers seen by the Independent reveal that both the DTI and the SFO considered Documents show the SFO turned down 11 allegations. David Hellier reports

delaying a public announcement of the SFO's decision to give them time to inform No 10. A letter from the SFO to the Attorney General's Chambers, dated November 3, 1994, headed "Edennote-Terry Venables", concludes: "The timing of the an-

nouncement will depend upon the DTL since the officials with whom we have been discussing the matter need to bring it to the attention of their ministers and are also considering whether it is appropriate to advise 10, Downing Street."

The Independent has seen DTI papers relating to discussions between the two prosecuting authorities in 1994, when

the DTI wished the SFO to as-

sume responsibility for its in-

vestigation into the husiness affairs of the England coach. All potential criminal proceedings against Mr Venables appear oow to have been dropped, according to a letter the DTI sent to him before

Christmas. The documents reveal that in there deemed to be sufficient evidence to warrant the SFO becoming involved.

One of the allegations, which disqualification as a director, relates to a £1m loan he received from a since-collapsed finance

company, Landhursi Leasing. In 1994, the documents show, the DTI was pressing the SFO to investigate whether theft or conspiracy could be shown in the way leases were offered as security for the loan.

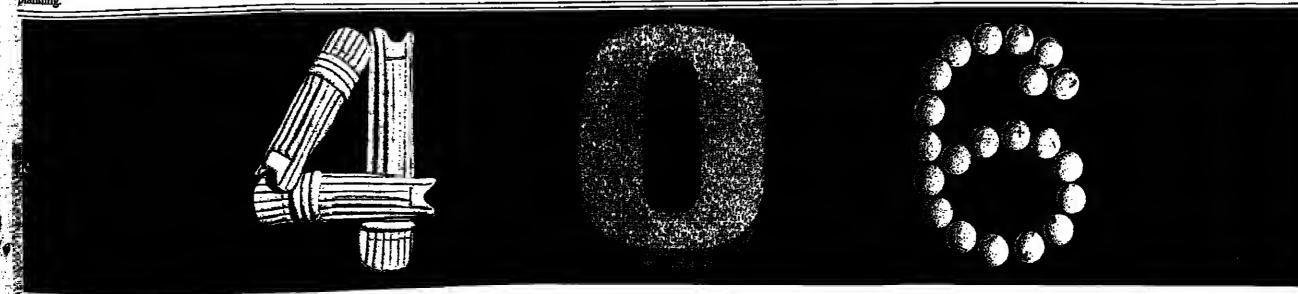
The SFO also declined to pursue DTI concerns that a corrupt payment had been made to none of 11 cases put up for in- obtain one of the leases.

ward by the DTI but turned down by the SFO included:

Claims that Mr Venables' company, Edennote, had made currently features in a DTI case misleading statements when it against Mr Venables seeking his subscribed for shares in Tottenham Hotspur ple.

Claims that Mr Venables aided and abened Eddie Ashby, an undischarged bankrupt, in taking part in the management of a number of companies. (Mr Ashby is currently defending charges related to taking part in the management of companies while an undischarged bankrupt.)

Claims that a free executive box at Tottenham Hotspur supplied to Landhurst Leasing for 1991/92 could amount to theft.



#### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

# Bidders could add value to Hanson

What was really mystifying about the extraordinary scenes at Hanson's annual attractive. With a dividend yield of 7.5 meeting yesterday was shareholders' apparent lack of interest in the proposed dismemberment of their company. Faithful investors also show a bewildering willingness to accept what has been a quite inexcusable under-performance against the rest of the market. The shares have lost more than a third of their relative

value over the past five years.

Plainly something had to be done—
the shares' relative decline started 12 years ago, about the time of the Lon-Since Peter Lewis and George Burnett don Brick acquisition, and has only accelerated in the 1990s. Whether the planned demerger of three of Hanson's four operating divisions is the answer

The cynical view (often the right one in these circumstances) is that Lord Hanson's decision to call time on the conglomerate experiment actually has little to do with creating shareholder value and more to do with prolonging a family dynasty. Robert Hanson, the argument goes, would not attract institutional support if he were proposed as his father's successor to chair the whole £11bn group. As head of a Hanson cut down to a quarter of its size, albeit still probably an FT-SE 100 member, the

family grip might be acceptable.

Unlike the previous demergers of ICI/Zeneca and Courtaulds, the breakup of Hanson does not appear to unlock any hidden value. In fact some analysis are suggesting an aggregate valuation of the parts at between 190p and

200p, compared with yesterday's close of 202.75p, an 8.75p fall on the day. There are advantages to holding the wbole group together. It would defer the capital gains tax that might be payable on a four-way split and would avoid the duplicated costs of running four head offices instead of one.

But valuations of the parts probably miss the crucial point of the demerger, which is that it is highly unlikely to come to fruition in the form now being advertised. Bidders are probably already lining up for the best bits, but it is hard to see any plausible huyer for, say, Imperial Tobacco waiting the nine months or so it will take to put together the demerger. Nor would Hanson go to the sizeable expense of demerging itself if it could simply sell Imperial to the likes of BAT Industries, Reemtsma of Germany or even Japan Tobacco.

While tobacco is the most saleable division, both chemicals and building materials could also attract bidders, especially if they are not so loaded with

per cent, the shares are strongly underpinned at current levels and shareholders should hold on to see how much value an effective For Sale sign can create.

#### Ashstead ready to grow further

boarded Ashstead Group nearly 12 years ago it has become Britain's biggest non-operated plant hire group. From an investment of £458,000, their combined stake is currently worth £23m. They are now preparing to put their fortunes at risk by launching the

next leg of the group's growth strategy.
Ashstead is paying £16m for Leada
Acrow, a 1993 buyout from BET, and \$30.3m (£20.2m) for McLean, an equipment hirer based in Virginia, close to its existing Sunbelt chain of US depots. To finance the two deals, Ashstead calling on shareholders for up to £66.3m in a one-for-two rights issue at

Trading record

Dividends per share (pence).

by business, %

Operating margins •

Ashtead Group: at a glance

1.8

to 180p, despite such a hefty cash call, gives a clue to the market's enthusiasm for Ashstead. Its performance has certainly been impressive, during what has been the worst building recession since the war. The market share of its main A-Plant UK business has almost tripled to 11 per cent since 1991 and margins have doubled to over 20 per cent since the trough of the recession.

Ashstead is probably unique amongst plant hire groups for its heavy incentivisation of staff, but it has also cut reliance on the construction industry from 100 per cent 10 years ago to 40 per cent now. The latest deal should spread the business even further. Leada, with operating margins of 16

per cent, takes Ashstead into a new business area, concrete formwork, and across the Irish Sea for the first time. Margins should be quickly boosted by putting A-Plant business through 15 of the 19 depois. McLean looks more risky. The price looks reasonable, given profits of \$4.8m last year, and McLean's margins of 14 per cent look capable of expansion. But the recent exit from the US by rivals Vibroplant shows just what a snake-pit it can be.

Based on UBS's forecast that prof-152p a sbare.

Yesterday's 2p gain in the share price its will rise from £18m to £29m in the

1994

31.9

5.2

. 0.53

67.3

11.3

2.5

Share price

1995

43.1

8.68

6.80

0.65

year to April 1997, but earnings growth will slow, the sbares could mark time on a forward multiple of 12. Sharebolders should follow the example of the founders and "tail swallow" enough rights to take up the balance.

#### Fyffes rides the banana boat

Yesterday's results from Fyffes, the Dublin-based fruit supplier, were some-thing of a sideshow. The real interest in Fyffes is what it will do with the hanana micrests of Geest, which it acquired in a £147m deal last month, and whether

they will reward investors.

Although nothing will be decided ahead of a strategic review, expected to take another six to eight weeks, some things seem clear. Geest's two new ships and its Costa Rican banana plantations are likely to be sold. Other than this, Fyffes is planning few changes. It will run Geest as a separate business with its own sales force and head office. The only potential synergies are in shipping and technical support.

Pyffes could cut more costs with a full merger but that would risk irking the supermarket groups, which would have been left dealing with one main supplier.

The last thing Fyffes wants is a recurrence of last year's banana price war, which saw the price fall to 19p per pound. That skirmish was funded by the supermarkets, which absorbed the lower prices in their margins, but they could put pressure on

the producers in any future battle. Fyffes claims there is good news ahead for bananas. The UK banana market - of which Fyffes now has half - is growing at 8 per cent a year. It has a broader base of suppliers, which minimises the risk from the natural disasters that can devastate crops. Bananas also account for just 30 per cent of Fyffes' sales, even after the Geest deal. But investors face uncertainties. Whatever Fyffes says, bananas are at the mercy not just of weather but political instability in producing countries, disease, and vagaries of supply and demand. Yesterday's results show that Fyffes has

managed the volatility a lot better than Geest. Pre-tax profits for the year to Octoher were 16 per cent up at Ir£42m on sales ahead by a third to Ir£1.2bn. This year's interims will be flat, but Panmure Gordon is forecasting £44.5m for the full year. With the shares unchanged at 112p they are on a forward rating of 13. A discount rating, but the shares are unlikely

### John Willcock CITY DIARY

# Barclays goes ballistic on card 'con' claims

"I think it's outrageous, ex-traordinary - I'm almost stumped for words." This was the sulphuric reaction from a Barclays Bank spokesman to a press campaign, launched yesterday, that branded Rowan Atkinson's TV adverts for Barclay

card a "complete con".

Jonathan Biles, chief executive of WorldCover Direct, an insurance company, issued a five-page press release that blasted: "With rubber-faced comedians advertising the 'free' travel insurance cover available though credit card purchases, WorldCover Direct warns travellers to read

on their hlandishments. It quotes Mr Biles saying: It's a complete con. The impression is being given that there are high levels of cover when in fact there are none. Barctaycard Visa's travel insurance, for example, only provides cover for up to £50,000 in the event of death, provided you bought

the small print before relying

that's it! "Anybody relying on their credit card to provide travet insurance would be well advised oot only to check what cover they have, but also to carefully check excesses on items like carpets or binoculars, which can often be so high as to undermine the whole value of the cover."

your holiday on the card, and

A Barclays spokesman who was shown the statement went ballistic: "I think the whole tone of it is outra-



geous. It really is a hit strong describing free extras as a con. We've always said you should get separate travel insurance." So will Barclays sue? "1 couldn't comment we'll have to look at it."

How to incentivise a workforce: Ashstead, which claims to be the biggest selfoperated plant hire group in the UK, has a monthly profit share scheme in which employees are paid according to the money they bave collected from clients.

Ashstead rents out dump trucks, air compressors and the like to builders and industrial sites. Peter Lewis, chairman, announced two big acquisitions and a rights issue yesterday. He also ob-

The Right Hunnurable Christopher Chataway of four-minute mile fame yesterday retired as a non-executive director of BET, the industrial services conglomerate, having hit the 65 barrier. Mr Chataway set the pace for Sir Roger Bannister when be broke the four-minute mile back in 1954. Yesterday be said be still keeps in contact with Sir Roger and the other

racer that day, Chris Brasher, Mr Chataway will remain as chairman of the Civil Aviation Anthority, but his 22-year stint at BET ended as a result of a 65-year age limit for non-execs which he helped to introduce eight years ago. "Norman Tebblt is a month younger than me nr something, and he will be retiring from the BET board in

served that since it was the end of the month all the employees would be scouring the country seeking to collect cash from their clients. "Generally we get the cheques because they're quite big lads," be said.

Alliance & Leicester customers may have been grinning over their £2.5bn share bonanza, but at the Council of Mortgage Lenders press conference yesterday morning there were only scowls.

As the CML big-wigs sat down to disclose the latest repossession figures, a spokeswoman had to explain that the CML's new chairman of one week's standing could not attend. He is Peter -White, chief executive of Alliance & Leicester, who had

other things to announce.
The CML spokeswoman explained buffily: "The chairman does not always have to appear and often doesn't." Across town at the Alliance's own press conference on its flotation, not everything was sweetness and light, either. They had to hurriedly convene a second conference as they had forgotten all the Sunday paper journalists.

The Contract of

### Ford's profits plunge by 58%

**DANIELLE ROBINSON** 

Ford Motor Company yesterday reported a 58 per cent plunge in its fourth-quarter profits and a 22 per cent fall in its 1995 carnings from 1994, making it the worst performer among the hig three US car-makers last year.

Earnings for the fourth quarter fell to \$660m (£437m) or 49 cents per share, compared with \$1.47 in the previous corresponding period, when profit was \$1.6bn. Ford's full-year 1995 profit was \$4.1bn or \$3.58 per share, down from 1994's record \$5.3bn.

Both General Motors, the number one car-maker in terms not a surprise because man-

three, have reported betterthan-anticipated 1995 earnings. Chrysler reported 1995 profits of \$2bn earlier this month, including a gain in sales. Earlier this week GM announced record 1995 earnings of \$6.9bn. albeit due to a lower tax rate rather than gains in earnings.

Ford blamed its poor results on a drop in North American sales volumes, costs associated with product launches in North America and Europe, adverse results in Brazil and Mexico and the effects of currency exchange

The market took the news in its stride. "Ford's earnings were

of size and Chrysler, oumber agement has been warning that earnings would be on the weak side," said James Solloway, car industry analyst at Argus Research in New York

"Even so, they are not good and we are unlikely to see any powerful rally in Ford's share price," Mr Solloway added.

Analysts said Ford was not doing anything untoward to cause the drag on earnings. "I don't think it's doing anything wrong. It's just that it is in an uncomfortable position in its product launch cycle. GM was the same position in 1994," Mr Solloway said.

Despite its results, 1995 was Ford's fourth-best year ever, according to the company.

#### Enterprise venture dismantled sets of Occidental Petroleum,

MARY FAGAN. Industrial Correspondent

The five-year-old joint venture between Elf Aquitaine and Enterprise Oil has sold its 13 per cent stake in Enterprise for about £230m and will now be

dismantled. Enterprise, which said the move would benefit the company and its shareholders, will make a £25m charge this year related to the change. The sbares were widely placed at around £3.70. compared with the £4.77 value in the oil comралу's books.

The joint venture was formed takeover of the North Sea as-

Piper, Claymore and Saltire, At of the demerger and debt and the time, Elf injected its share- other liabilities of £130m. The holding in Enterprise into the venture while Enterprise donated its Nelson field. The French group owned two-thirds of Elf Enterprise and in effect had operational control.

The reorganisation gives the two groups direct control of their assets and is also thought to be driven by Elf's desire to reduce debt. Graham Hearne. chairman of Enterprise, said that in spite of the move he hopes to strengthen the exploration and production relain 1991 as a vehicle for the tionship between the two

Enterprise will receive £219m which included fields such as in oil and gas assets as a result company are cash-generative and the re-organisation is expected to marginally enhance Enterprise's earnings per share from 1996 onwards.

The announcement came as Total of France reported a fall in net profit to Fr2.2bn from Fr3.4bn the previous year. The Fr1.5bn charge for restructuring and accounting changes and Total predicted "a substantial growth in profits" in similar trading conditions this

	COMPA	NY RESULT	S	
	Ternover £	Pre-bax £	EPS .	Dividend
Attend Textile Comps (F)	211m (168m)	18.9m (17.0m)	19.5p (18.1p)	7.3p (6.8p)
Angle United (1)	92.6m (90.2m)	-10.2m (-3.2m)	1.2p ] 0.4p)	nii (nii)
Ashlesel Group (1)	43.1m (31.9m)	6.7m (6.6m)	6.8p (5.2p)	0.85p (0.53p)
AH BaR (I)	4.27m (4.46m)	0.08m (-3.71m)	0.84p (-40.87p)	14 (nil)
Bonles Henter (I)	32.6m (28.1m)	1.61m (2.38m)	10.9p (12.3p)	2.9p (2.75p)
Businell Group (f)	13.1m (8.61m)	0.26m (0.11m)	1p (0.5p)	nii (mil)
Capyright Proms (SP)	2.79m (-)	0.18m (-)	1.77p (-)	0.5p(-)
Exredis Electron (I)	119m (40.9m)	14.1m (2.49m)	26.15p (6p)	1:85p (1.55p)
Fyttes (F)	Ir1.19bn (Ir897m)	ir42m (ir36.1m)	7.91p (7.02p)	1.8674p (·]
Porvais (F)	39.9m (24.8m)	5.1m (3.1m)	18p (13.7p)	5.4p (4.5p)
Zetters (I)	10.5m (11.7m)	593m (690m)	5.90 (6.90)	5p (5p)

# WIN A PORSCHE BOXSTER

# with THE INDEPENDENT Own one of the first Boxsters in the country

the Porsche Boxster or Project 986 bas been perhaps the most eagerly awaited new car of recent years. Not yet in full production and not due for launch until September, we be a real head-turner. have managed to secure one of the very first Boxsters direct from Germany. A genuine two scater sports car, the Boxster's retro body styling and fine detail combine

for a visually stunning car. Add to this the legendary Porsche engineering and it is little wonder that this is one of the most talked about cars of the year. The Porsche Boxster will be powered by a new six cylinder, two and a half litre 24 valve engine developing 210 bhp, driven through a new six speed gearbox. This engine is a major departure from Porsche's traditional air cooled power

The Boxster combines stunning looks with stunning performance, capable of 140 mph and 0-60 in around six seconds. But this is no hairy beast; it's a driver's car. The mid-engined configuration and double-wishbone suspension all round ensures a smooth ride.

au INDEPENDENT PORSCHE BOXSTER TOKEN FIVE

The production Boxster may differ slightly from the prototype shown here but it is sure to

To enter our prize draw you must collect five differently numbered tokens from the

eight we will printing in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Today we are printing Token Five. Token Six will appear in The Independent tomorrow and an entry form will be published on Saturday.

1. To enter our Porschie Bosster prize draw you need to collect five differently numbered tokens from the eight we will be printing (one of which was a starter token which can be used as any number).

2. The closing date for entries is 23 February 1996. Send to: The Independent/Porsche Boxster Prize Draw, PQ Box 250, Welwyn Gerden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1TU along wilth a completed entry form which will be printed on Saturday 3 February.

3. For previously published tokens or an entry form send a SAE to: The Independent/Porsche Bosster, Token Request or Entry Form, PO Box 83, Welwyn Garden City, Hert-fordshire AL7 1.T. Only 2 tokens are available per application. If you require both tokens and a form, please send separate SAE's. Requests must be received by first post 12 February 1.996.

4. Employees and agents of Newspaper Publishing Pic or those of any other national newspaper company or any firm connected with the promotion are not eligible to take part, neither are their relatives nor members of their familiar. thes or households. Entrants must be aged 18 or over 5. The winner must co-operate for publicity purposes if required and accept that his/her name and photograph will be published in the paper.

6. Photocopies of tokens and entry forms are not 7. The promoter reserves the right in their absolute discretion to disqualify any entry or

> 8. No correspondence will be entered into. Proof of postage will not be accepted into. Proof of postage will not be accepted as proof of receipt. The promoter will not take responsibility for entries lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's deci-sion is final.

9. The competition is open to residents of the UK and the insh Republic. The prize will be as stated, with no cash alternative. The Editor's decision is finel.

LO. The Poische Bosster should be available in November 1996, but is depen-

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# market report/shares

THURSTELL



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 $3,759.3 \pm 24.0$ FT-SE 250  $4,125.0 \pm 29.3$ FT-SE 350 1,868.0 + 12.2SEAQ VOLUME 1.64bn shares. 34,265 bargains Gitts Index

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100



Perpetual surges as intrigue grips financial sector Perpetual, the fund manage- cent of the capital and al-

over euphoria which has captivated the financial sector as swirled around.

But whereas many financial shares have felt obliged to movements. pause for hreath Perpetual has continued to power ahead.

They surged another 58p to a 2,133p peak with some saying it will soon relinquish its independence with, again, inevitably, cash-rich National Westminster Bank, known to want to increase its fund management side, regarded as the most likely bidder.

Any deal would need the say-so of Martin Arbib, the racehorse owner who started the company in what has been described as a Heoley-on-Thames garret 22 years ago.

His family and charitable interests control around 65 per

ment group, is intriguing the though he has shown no inclistock market. The shares have oation to sell there is clearly a responded to the heady take- sneaking suspicion he may yield to temptation.

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With the Arbib stake the stories of bids and deals have shares are a narrow market and it does not require much in-

Other financials were less enthusiastic. Mercury Asset the surge, up 20p to 828p and Management shaded a few East Midland gained 18p to coppers to 894p and up-for-sale Gartmore, the US group NationsBank is now the favourite to strike, stuck at 253p.

peak with a 24-point gain to 3.759.3. Second-line shares. which have lagged behind the blue chip elite, are also catching up with the supporting in-dex 25 points off its peak, established two years ago.

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

day with British Biotech suf-

gave ground. Glazo Wellcome

showed the tiddlers how to per-

form, up 28.5p to 961.5p on

Cahle groups enjoyed, for

performance. They have been

Aids treatment hopes.

of the year

terest to create sharp price ened on renewed takeover own insurance operation. With speculation with Yorkshire up Royal Insurance handling new Halifax underwriting for 35p to 719p. Southern joined household accounts, worth £300m a year premium income, the shares rose 7p to 697p. Talk of more American bids is in the air; Continental 385p. Sun Alliance, which has forays are also expected. lost a chunk of Halifax busi-

BSkyB, figures next week. ness, fell 7p to 370p.

The bio-babes had a down The rest of the market, huoyed by hopes of lower interest rates and New York, clawed its way to yet another peak with a 24-point gain to fering a 157p hit to 2,123p. ML Laboratories and Scotia also sponded favourably to the measures to enliven the German economy and Bass and Scottish & Newcastle moved them, something of an upbeat

ahead after analyst meetings. Insurances were excited by the Halifax decision to run its plugging into cable.

On the theory they have been oversold and must now be worth buying Nynex gained 6.5p to 92p; General Cable 11p to 179p and TeleWest 7p to

125p. Media shares were buoyant, largely on the back of NatWest Securities enthusiasm.

Enterprise Oil was the most heavily traded share with Seaq putting volume at 161 million. The action was the result of the sale of 12.9 per cent of group by Elf, the French group. En-terprise shares fell 13p to 368p. Hanson was again busily traded as the debate raged

about the surprise break-up. The shares at one time down to 199p, ending 8.75p lower at 202.75p. Vodofone, on talk of Freech

expansion and Société Générale Strauss Turnhull joining Henderson Crosth-

to 204p as Henderson talked of more orders and put a medium term target of 240p on

the shares. Greenalls "celebrated" its stituent with a 13.5p fall to 596p and a profit warning knocked 37p to 251p from catering equipment group, Lincat. Engineer Wilshaw remained

shares reached 80p in Sep-Bardon, the aggregates group, continued to attract in-

under the whip of a determined

seller, falling 5p to 40p. The

The shares edged ahead 1.5p to 38.5p, highest for more than 18 months. Once again turnover was high with Seaq putting the volume at almost

12 million. Polypipe moved to a 12 stock and friendly supporters take their stake to 17.81 per cent.

have seemed less than impressed with the advantages of 237.5p. Rolls-Royce firmed 1p erty services group that has barely stirred since it arrived nn AIM in October, seems set for a higher profile. Two deals, involving property maintenance and landscapfirst day as a Footsie con- ing, could double the group's present £3.2m valuation and would require a share placing. Dean, run by Stephen Dean, former head of Dean & Bowes, is acquiring 40 per cent of H Page, a building services supplier. The group

TAKING STOCK

☐ Bruntcliffe Aggregates held at 27p, despite a share build-up. Two former directors, Anthony Hanson and Paul Kaye, have lifted their shareholding to 14.62 per cent. Conversion of loan

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the pit Mr or are the

hopes for profits of around £200,000 last year. The shares

held at 11p.

ı		The state of the s	terests control around 65 per	Electricity shares hright-	the Halifax decision to run its hit hard as many householders	joining Henderson Crosth- th	ne health group, held at 217p. cent.
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# Johnson still has the magic touch

The moment came when Elden Campbell, at No 41, got his second foul in less than three minutes. The crowd knew foul trouble would mean hringing Magic off the bench: from the moment the Lakers called timeout, they were on their feet.

HERSHALL SERGIARY

As Johnson strode out on to the Forum court on Tuesday night, deafening cheers lasted nearly a minute. They groaned when he missed his first attempt. groaned again as a long shot clanked off the rim, hut then Johnsoo came driving down to the right and flipped in his first

"You wait for this day for a long time and it's finally here and you go out there and... oh, man," Earvin "Magic" Johnson said later of his return to professional basketball after 1,540 days. "It was great," he said. "It was so much fun. Man!"

Johnson had aged four years and put on 36lbs since he retired from the Lakers on 12 June 1991 as one of the greatest names in basketball, after announcing he carried the HIV virus. He was noticeably slower and heavier. But he scored 19 points in 27 minutes, making 10 assists and eight rebounds, helping the Lakers to a 10-point victory.

They were remarkable statistics for a player who has been out for four years. In the stands and in the press box, the verdicts were unanimous. No one expected perfect form in the first game hut, as comehacks Johnson to urge him to return,

The International Tennis Fed-

eration said yesterday it would

vigorously defend itself against

court action by Mats Wilander

and Karol Novacek, who are ac-

cusing the organisation of a

drugs allegation smear.

Rapture greeted the comeback of one of American basketball's greatest players. Tim Cornwell reports from Los Angeles

ply Magical," the Los Angeles Times announced in two-inch type. Watching from the second row was Leigh Adams, a TV salesman who stopped watching basketball when Johnson retired. He had brought his eightyear-old son to watch sporting history and was oot disap-pointed. "He oever lets you down," he said. "It's just a ton of excitement. His magnetism is just contagious."

At half-time the overhead screen played clips of Johnson m his glory days. At the back of the stands, filled with 7,500 people and more than 200 journalists, Johnson's No 32 was still posted with other retired numbers from the Lakers' great players. Johnson said he came out scared and nervous. What I've learned is that I've got work to do. Sometimes I was somewhere 1 shouldn't have been with it," he said. "I've got to feel the game better, It's not just my condition, it's banging and hitting, and all of that has to come back."

At times both teams seemed to play around Johnson rather than against him, overawed by the legend in their midst. The Lakers' Cedric Ceballos, one of the players who had telephoned Johnson to urge him to return, and the Bulls," Johnson said.

ITF ready to defend itself in court

themselves over allegations they

Deborah Jevans, the 1TF

Lawyers for the two players Sunday that she would not face of it, to attack the whole of

ers deny the allegations.

went, this was formidable. "Sim- said he looked along the bench and thought: "Where is my rewind hutton?" Johnson had introduced the Lakers' Vlade Divac, a Yugoslav with only a smattering of English, to American hasketball. He was the high school inspiration for Joe Smith, the Warriors' star who played opposite him at No 32. Johnson's doctor put him oo

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the anti-Aids drug, AZT, four years ago, but since then he has rebuffed questions on his medicatioo and health. Protests from players fearful of infection hlocked an earlier return. But his team-mates oow joke they are playing basketball, not having unprotected sex. "We are all educated now," Johnson said. "It is just full steam ahead." The hype was already huild-

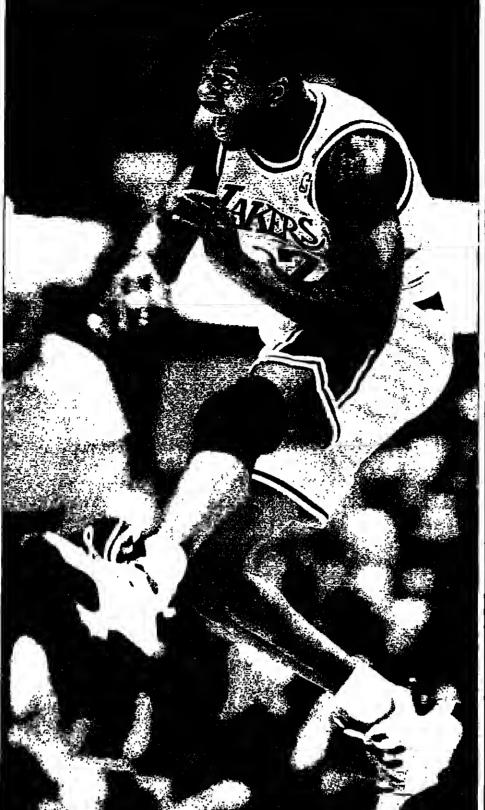
ing yesterday for tomorrow's

game, wheo the Lakers face the Chicago Bulls, who are on a winning streak led by Michael Jordan, another great who himself retired for 18 months. Commentators hope it will relight the flagging basketball scene. There won't be room for any charity. The Bulls have won 39 of their 42 games this seasoo, and are aiming to win more games than any team in NBA history. "It's

have to wait until there is a hear-

our drug-testing programme.

The ITF do not determine the



have served a writ on the ITF comment on details of the case the anti-doping programme. | Spellbinding: the Lakers' Magic Johnson is cock-a-hoop

### **Bears reject** Maine chance

Rugby League

Oldham Bears have abandoned plans to take Super League rugby to Maine Road on a regular basis, but the cluh might still use Manchester City's ground for

one televised game next season.
Six of their 11 home games
- against Wigan, Paris, Castleford, St Helens, London and Sheffield – will be at Oldham Athletic's Boundary Park, with the other five at Watersheddings. "Fans were not keen on our plan to use Maine Road," the club's marketing manager, David Hughes, explained.

The chairman, Jim Quinn, added: "We will only go to Maine Road if we can get a Sky game there in the second half of the season, and eveo theo it will be a maximum of one."

With a new stadium proposed, the last game on the 110-year-old Watersheddings pitch looks likely to be against Warrington on Sunday, 9 June.
The prop Paul Anderson and

the former Great Britain winger St John Ellis have signed new 5tay at the club.

contracts with Halifax. Anderson, the 22-year-old forward who missed most of the last two seasons with abdominal problems, has agreed a deal lasting until December 1997. Ellis has extended his commitment to the club until June.

Second Division strugglers Highfield have appointed Jim Crellin as team manager and Alex Melling as player-coach. Creflin, 52, has been out of the game since leaving Leigh three years ago, after stints at Blackpool, Halifax, Swinton, Mans-field and Rochdale. Melling, the former Swinton and Rochdale Hornets hooker, has been play-ing for the amateur side Oldham St Annes this seasoo.

"I'm glad to be back hut it couldn't be a lougher job,"
Crellin said. "Highfield have been warned they could lose their professional status if they don't show a marked improvement. But I'm confident we can change the club's fortunes."

Tommy Frodsham, the player-manager during the Centenary season, will be invited to

#### **Crossed wires at Leeds**

After the euphoria of Tuesday, doubts have been growing inside and outside Headingley over some aspects of the new links between the Leeds league and union clubs, writes Dave Had-

The league club's football manager, Hugh McGahan, has dismissed the idea of players taking part in both codes, all year round. "Our coach, Dean Bell, certainly isn't happy at the prospect of players turning out 52 weeks of the year. All players need a time to rest and get over niggling injuries," he said.

We are desperately keen to challenge Wigan for the game's honours and are not going to do that if most of our players are tired because of playing all the year round."

The League's chief executive. Maurice Lindsay, has also ex-Photograph: Allsport | that the welfare of the players | delayed until Sunday.

is paramount and that surely cannot be helped by all-theyear-round rugby," he said. Meanwhile, there are those

in amateur rugby league irri-tated by Leeds clear hope that league fans will flock to Headingley to watch union in the win-ter. "I can uoderstand the relationship with rugby union," said Barla's national administrator, Maurice Oldroyd, "hut we should be encouraging people to support our own game."

Local amateur sides such as Milford draw gates which compare with those at the union club, but Leeds' chairman, Denis Greenwood, admitted at the launch of the cross-code adventure that they had never seriously considered going into partnership with one of them.

The Silk Cut Challenge Cup lies planned for Bradford and pressed his doubts. "We believe Whitehaven tonight have been

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# Dr Leunt in recovery room

in London, saying Wilander or on the players' statement, and Novacek have not been giv-

en a fair chance to defend has been served, she said. We

tested positive for cocaine at last ing in court and then we will vig-

year's French Open. Both play- orously defend the reputation of

secretary general, has said since basis of the [players'] claim

the allegations were made on which would appear, on the

Racing

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1.5

surance Funds

12.35

Tennis

**CHRIS CORRIGAN** 

Perhaps Dr Leimt was fated to be an unlucky horse. Even the prospective owner he was named after changed his mind and decided not to huy the chestnut after all. Then, at Cheltenham last March, Dr Leunt became without doubt the unluckiest runner at the Festival.

Near Minehoad in Somerset this week, though, efforts are being intensified to get the fiveyear-old fit for next month's Champion Hurdle. Too amhitious a target? Only

those who failed to keep a close eye on Dr Leunt's remarkable performance in last vear's Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham would think that.

The ex-Irish gelding was 33-1 for the Triumph, his first race in this country. Despite those odds, his trainer, Phillip Hobbs, had publicly stated he had great

2. Wookerstone Hall 33-1; 3. Lack Nach 9-2 (b. 12 ran. %, 3½: 15 Mark Prescott, Learnarier). Tote: £5.10; £2.30, £2.90, (\$87.40, Dual Foreast: £168.60, Computer Stager Foreast: £128.84, Treast: £732.85, Loc. £254.30.

2.40: 1. PRIMULA BAIRN (Alex Greeves)
7: 1; 2. King Rambo 15-8 fax; 3. Sea-Deer
55-4, 2 mm. 1½, 2½-10 Naronis, Thrist). Total:
57-90: £1-50, £1-10, £1-50. DF: £12-30.
CSF: £19-37.

- 3.10: 1 FIELD OF VISION (I Weater) 11-2; 2, Komreyev Dancer 12-1; 3, South East-em Fred 8-1, 12 ran. 7-2 fav Ocean Park

em Fred 8-1, 12 ran, 7-2 ray occan. Total (5th), 1, 24-, (M. Johnston, McGleham), Total (57.10, £1.10, £3.10, £4.80, DF; £77.30, CSF; £58.73, Tricast: £496.97, Trick £219.70,

- 3.40: 1. WEETMAN'S WEIGH (L Dettor)

13-2; 2. Heyer Golf Express 10-1; 3. Myr-lone Mistake 7-1. 9 ran. 9-4 fav Princely Sound (4th). ½, nk. (R Holinshead, Upper Longdon). Tete: £4.60; £1.40, £4.00. £3.30. DF. £24.00. CSF: £5.4.3. Tricast £32.04. Tric: £171.60. After a spewards in-

4.10: 1 MYSTIC TEMPO (R Cochra

Cenes Env. 2. Bothy J-1; 3. Dinas-C 12-1; 11 [Mp. 4b, 1. (Dr.) Scargii, Newmarket). Toto: £1.70; £1.10; £1.80; £2.30. DF: £4.50, CSF: [26.53, Trig: £14.80.

\$40:1 BEAUMONT (R Cochrane) 4-1; 2

Morphiassorythin 5-1; 3. Wonderful Day 7-2 faz, 10 ren. 8, ½; U Banks, Newmarkett. 70te; £4.90; £1.70, £1.90, £2.00, DF: £13.70; CSF: £24.84, Tncast: £72.86, Tnc

2.10: 1. SERIOUS FACT (G Duffield) 5-1;

through the rails. They rejoined

of the hill, Trevor Horgan and his mount were sent crashing RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Zahid (Lingfield 3.50) NB: Montone (Lingfield 4.20)

the field 40 yards further on but had forfeited 15 lengths as well as losing all momentum.

From a seemingly hopeless position towards the back of the field, however, Dr Leunt began making relentless headway eventually finishing two-and-ahalf lengths second to the Martin Pipe-trained Kissair. Inevitably, the borse was dis-

qualified and demoted to last for Eric McNamara, who trained

faith in his new charge's ahilitechnically "taking the wrong ty. Shortly after the fifth flight course". Horgan was fined £23) for continuing in the race, and of hurdles, Dr Leunt was close up in seventh, going well. backers lost their money. It was But then, as the 27 runners also discovered later that Dr Lebunched on the turn at the top unt had broken his near-fore pedal bone. The horse has not raced since but has recovered af-

> "We're hoping to get him to the Festival for the Champion Hurdle." Hobbs said vesterday. The Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton in three weeks had been considered for his comeback, but Dr Leunt has a slight muscle strain in his back. "We will be looking out for another race before Cheltenham, but we have the muscle problem to sort out first. It is at least a possibility he could go straight to the Champion Hurdle. Hobbs said of his horse, who is widely

gether the cods of the bone.

available at 40-t for the big race. Another party watching the horse's progress with interest is Dr Leunt in Co Limerick to win two juvenile hurdle races in late 1994. "The horse was always going to stay well and was one of the best juveniles in Ireland," McNamara said yesterday.

"He was undoubtedly very unlucky in the Triumph and it'll ter an operation to screw tobe interesting to see him back oo a racecourse. When he was a two-year-old. I thought a fellow from abroad named Dr Leunt might buy him so that's how he was named. Instead, I ended up owning him myself until

he was sold to England." Had he been sorry to see such a good horse leave his stable? "I always prefer to have the money in my pocket," was Mc-Namara's reply.

Prospects for today's Sedgefield card hinge on a 7.30 inspection but turf racing looks likely to return at Folkestone tomorrow. Kelso, tomorrow's other turf card, is in jeopardy but chances for Sandown on Saturday are greatly improved.

2.40 MAINSFORTH MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 5f

027070 CHORUS LINE (12) 7 Beest nort 7 11 2 R Supple

#### LINGFIELD

HYPERION 3.20 Blue Flyer (nb) 3.50 Zahid 4.20 Mr Frosty 2.50 PRINCE DANZIG (nap)

GGING: Standard. STALLS: 51 & |m outside, remainder inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 50.

Left-hand, sharp course (Equitmek surface).

Course is SE of town on BCO28. Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMLS6ION: All enclosures \$9. C AB PARK: Club \$3; remainder tree.

2.20 Northern Trial

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: R O'Sullivan = 45 winners from 260 runners give a success ratio of 17.3% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$15.57; Lord Huntingdon =:77 winners, 168 runners, 22.3%, -\$6.05; M Johnston = 34 winners, 195 runners, 17. %, -\$10.98; A Moore = 34 winners, 315 runners, 316 runn

quistajade 13 20).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Beal Madrid (3.50) won here on Thursday.
LONG-RISTANCE RUNNERS: 2ed Spectacle (2.50) & Mac's Taxt (3.50) have been sent 270 miles by P Haslam from Middleham, North Yorkshar. 1.50 BRITISH COLUMBIA CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450

added 6f Penalty Value £2,577

1995: Tynan Purple 7 8 5 0 Hamson 13-2 (T J Naughton) 7 ran

1995: Tyrain Purple 7 8 5 0 Hamson 13-2 (T J Naugimon) 7 ran FORM GUIDE.

HARD TO FIGURE will not be an easy horse to place on turf this year. For all his ability, he is a veteran retirming from a bad giash to a fedoc's sustained in the Ayr Gold Cup. True, he rain some fine races in glood company lest season, norably when such of 29 at Ayr despite trouble in running, but he reached the frame only, outce in nine attempts. At least he was able to marriant his record of winning at least once per season since 1963 by rating a Listed race at Newbury in July (a 25-1 success from Inzor). On paper, this is a good chance for him to make his ad-weather debut a winning one, but Ron Hodges, who has abandoned plans to send Hard To Figure hunding, sock he will not persever at the old horse has lost in supersite for facing. He reports that the popular give seems in good form at home and hopes that all-weather claumes, can provide an outlet. Hodges seat: "Anyone who would claim a 10-year-old after he has spent so long in our year wantable a but mean." Star Talent, formerly with Dewid Ebsorth, had a slightly higher handically facing in the early part of last season and receives 9th here if his index's allowence is taken into account. Star Talent's first run for new connections resulted in a namow with from Peritous Pright here three weeks ago. The suspecion is than the may run find soo much when coming off the badle but much depends on how Hard To Figure takes to this surface, inharmed when coming off the badle but much depends on how hard To Figure takes to this surface, inharmed when coming off the badle but much depends on how hard To Figure takes to this surface, inharmed when coming off the badle but much depends on how hard to Figure takes to the coming should now suit her, despite her wins all corning over five. Audio lisson't son and she shapes as if so furlongs should now suit her, despite her wins all coming over five. Audio hash shaped top well since his November win here over seven, his fourth win of 1985.

#### 2.20 ALBERTA SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 5f Penalty Value £2,306

1	15	0700 00	CAPTAIN MARMALADE (15) (C) (Mrs Alson Thorn) O Thorn 7 98	5 Yeste
t	1.5	0560-30	CAPPAIN AND THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY	7 One-
ţ	] 3	(016-40	ROSE OF GLENN (20) (C) (K M Rideout) 8 Paling 5 9 6	K COCKE
L	14	362-064	HEIGHTH OF FAME (14) (Simon T Levis) A J Wilson 5 9 5	Fortur
ł	1 5	P/06P-0	QUADRANT (14) (C) (M V Johnston) A Moore 7 9 5	A Clar
ı	6	50000-6	WHITE HEAT (7) (I Lighthoune) W G M Turner 4 95	C Adamson (:
l	17	0000	JNUBO (238) (T Long) J Jenkins 5 9 4	Sally Walf (7
ı	8 1	656-52	NORTHERN TRIAL (USA) (9) (Dens McCarthy) K Buris 8 9 3	T Ashley (7)
ı	9	06/014/	COMMANCHERO (563) U W Murselli R Hodges 9 6 13	S Drowne (
ı	10	006-510	SORISKY (19) (CD) (Brian Gubby Ltd) 8 Gubby 4 8 12	Quien
ı	111	0445-22	MILITAK (14) (BF) (Peter Heddock) P Malan 489	S Sander
ĺ	ĺ 12	04-4650	SWIMFORD FLYER (5) (David Petition) J A Harms 7 & 8	Date Gibeon
ı	13	0:0-0:4	FOOLS OF PRIDE (S) IL A Morgani R Hollmshead 4 8 8	
ı	14	00000	SHEDANSAR (23) (J Dantels) G L Moore 4 8 3	N Adams
l	25	0300	MISTER LAWSON (20) (C) (W McKibbin) 8 Smart 10 8 1	A Maciz
l	1 16	0000	PERCUSSION BIRD (14) (Jame Poulton) J Poulton 4 80	T Field (7)
L	1 77	250 250	DUGGAN (8) (P O Evens) P Evens 9 7 12	F Norte
ı	1 40	000-300	CONTRACTOR NO. CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR OF T	N C-Arle

18 020300-0 VERRO (USA) (12) (P D Purch) K Bishop 9 7 10. - In declared Materian weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Vern 7st 5th.
RETITING: 9-2 Northern Tried, 11-2 Militak, 6-1 Hill Farm Dencer, 7-1 Captain Marmalade, 9-1 Rose
Of Glenn, 10-1 Duggan, 12-1 Sorisky, 14-1 Fools Of Pride, Heighth Of Farme, 16-1 others
1998: Dencerg Diamond 5-9 O S Senders 5-1 Miles 8 Senders) 10 ran
pages 4 on the

MELTAK is stall a marcien filly, but the signs are that she can make a bold but in this seller. She is 2th bet-MILTAK is stall a maiden filly, but the sighs are that she can make a bold but in this seed. She is 200 center for the three-puriors of a length by which Sorlidy best her over the counts and distance early lest month and was finishing best. She again had to play ascond fiddle, this time to Carolis Marc over 12 furlongs here, bon weeks ago, but Carolis Marc won again afterwards, beging HIII Fram Dancer here. Heighth Of Farme pupped HiI Fram Dancer for second place in a 12-furing apprentices' handcap at Wohenhampton los? November, but has has looked one peeper on subsequent static, northern third did manage to take second place behind warm features El Volador here (120) hine days ago, but the form may not amount to much and one or two of the younger houses are Biely to prove too pethy for him. Rose Of Gloss has not claimers here and at Southwell and seems fairly handleapped on that form, but she fixed but tame. for the two-mile Southwell darmer wan by Eulogy lest month. She is returned to a shorter the work re-Cochrane booked, but it cannot have been facir of stamma that beat her in Eulogy's race because she won

2.50 MANITOBA HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 4f Penal-ty Value £3,453

5244-34 PRINCE DANZIG (15) (CD) (A H Unck) O Murray Smith 5 9 11 ... 112:60-6 PROGRESSION (9) (D) (Alex Come) C Murray 5 9 3. 2100/00- CONSC HILL (248) (8 Crange) J Pesson 5.8 10.... 1005-00 CROSS TALK (\$) | I F Rept R Holinehand & R R - 7 declared -BETTRIG: 9-4 Prince Dawig, 7-2 Courboril, 4-1 Progression, 9-2 Let's Got Lost, 11-2 Red Specto-

cle, 33-1 Cross Talls, 50-1 Conic HB 1995: An Form 8 10 3 T has 4-5 (C Cycer) 7 ran

PROGRESSION appeared to run really well over 10 furtongs here none days back this race social September) and is an interesting competent on its York (Augusti form when wirting over an energed 11 furtongs. He was following up a 33-1 win or Goodwood's Turnide Hundsop and had Soveral in-form horses behind, including Vindalop at the height of his powers. Progression wasn't knocked about offer a slow start of hist Competants takes here and may have the order as Benefit had been and the season. in mat corretack race here and may have the odge on Princet Dennig, who lives this track, gots well for Joson Weater and has had a couple of recent runs to bring him to the boll. Let's Got Lost won over hur-cles all Listow in October and looks just the type trad Jimmy Hams can place to advantage on the all-weath-er. while Reid Spectacle may try to turn off the opposition from the foot. He raced over two miles lest time but it allies a witner over an extended hirse futurity, at Wolverhampton. Courterful represents the form Dow stable witch uses on the mark at Cegivet-lur-Mer yesterdey and Courterful won times last Feor-bry, later adding to those gams in a Brighton handcap. Selections PROGRESSION

# 

BETTING: 6-4 Blue Flyor, 5-2 Note Of Cartino, 3-1 Rami, 8-1 Laucasidre Legend, 11-1 Conquista-jude, 12-1 Blancherry Fields, 16-1 others 1993: Peantire 3 9 0 8 Doyle 13-8 (C Bintern) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

BLIFE FLYER is a well-built gislong with picing of scope about him and a short-head second to Well Drawn over course and distance three weeks app provides the right encouragement. He has been blinkered on his latest two starts, but travelled well enough strongly the race lost time to suggest he can cope without the act. In any event, the booking of Jeson Wester is a top pics. This tooks the type of race Blue Flyer can win. Note Of Caustion was Wester's mourt at Victorehampton (17) last time but Frankle Detron, back in action on the all-weather, tokes over. Even so, Note Of Caustion let down his supportes at Wolverhampton when fourth to Coochetta and tooks bestable on that form. Crystal Fast is one that can improve and is worth noting for support, while Rand, also notion by Vicaver in the past, might eventually win a little race, but son't anyting special. Selections BLUE FLYER

3	3.50	NEWFOUNDLAND HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,45 2f Penalty Value £2,696	50 added 1:
-		21 I CHARLY VALUE 12,000	44 1
1	004-413	ROBELLION (14) (C) (George S Thompson) O Arbuthnot 5 10 0	R Cochrane :
2	0541/2-1	EXPLOSIVE POWER (21) (CD) (HT Short) G Bravery 5 9 12	T Ives
3	0060-51	TODO (USA) (LA) (CD) (I Morton) P Mitchell 5 9 9	A Clark
4	4003-13	LABUDD (USA) (12) (C) (BF) (Isaac, Course, Adams, Ingram) R Ingram	698 D Bas
S	306-61	YOUR MOST WELCOME (14) (CD) (Mrs J E Lambert) D thench Davis 5	9 4 6 Carter
6		MAC'S TAXI (12) (C) U MicMundo) P Hastern 4 9 1	
7		CANADOR (14) (B Smart 8 Smart 4 8 11.	
É	36000	SMILEY FROE (275) U W Mursell R Hodges 4 8 11	S Drowns (3)
9	60000-4	SWEET ALLEGIANCE (1A) (Brookings) Guarding J Poulton 8 8 10	P McCabbe (3) :
10	113-201	REAL MADRID (7) (CD) (Crys Wall) G Error 5 5 9 (5ex)	N Adems
11	543464	ZAHID (USA) (182) (Ars Bane I.! Burke I & Burke 5 8 8	Outcom
12	0/060-00	AL SHAATI (FR) (12) (C) (Ms R J Doorgachum) R O'Sulwan 6 6 5	N Cartiste
13	00005-0	HILL FARM KARIE (8) (Mrs Mary Bristourne) W Bristourne 5 8 5	A Garti
14	550500-	RUBADUB (192) (The Tote Enc Racing Club) J M Bradley 5 7 10	A Markov '
-	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	MONTH (TEXT) (III INT. CIT MINT CONT. S to proper) a 1 year of mint	

Allebraum weight: 7st 10fb. True handicap weight: Rubbidub 7st 4D.
BETTING: 9-2 Explosive Power, 11-2 Todd, 5-1 Year Most Weicome, 7-1 Labadd, 16-2 Real Madrid 8-1 Robellion, 10-1 Zahld, 12-1 Mar's Taxl, 14-1 others
1996: Little Mes Ribot 5 7 12 Stephen Davies 100-30 (R O'Sulivan) 9 ran
FORM GRIDE

EXPLOSIVE POWER was confirming earlier form with the time behind Wet Patch here when besting Roal Madrid a length over the course and distance three weeks ago. Taking the lead off Real Madrid a furforg out. Explosive Power proved no strong for the numer-up on the run to the line and has every chance of owing so again on 300 better terms. The reason Real Madrid is worse off is the 5th periatry he carnes for his genre defeat of Ultranan Warnor here lest week. That we confirms the solicity of his runs with Explosive Power. Your Most Wolcome, running for the first time in four months, finshed eight lengths back in soft in Explosive Power's race, leading half a rate out until Real Madrid went on a furforg later. He has since with a week malden over the course and distance from Errant, Sanador and Sweet Alliegsance and should not be so far behind Explosive Power this time with his 30b put. Robellion was a fair sprinter on run first season and showed he stokes a note on the all-weether by detition; up to heak Relace. Daughter here fact season and showed he stays a mile on the all-weather by getting up to beat Bakers Daughter here less month. The way he had legg on mile fourth pehind: Labouid in a mile hendress the time before suggests his may be even more suried by today's extra two turtongs. Todat's war in division one of Your Most Welc maiden was slightly faster. Both, however, were poor races. Selections EXPLOSIVE POWER

# 4.20 ONTARIO AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m Penalty Value £2,968

- 12 doctored 
8ETTING: 5-2 Dignest, 9-2 Mr Fresty, 5-1 Four Of Spades, 11-2 Montone, 8-1 Jon's Choice, 9-1
Best Kept Secret, 12-1 Love Legend, 14-1 others
1995: Perious Pigin 4-9 10 J Weener 3-1 (W R Mari 11 ran

FORM GUIDE
The expenence of John Durkan on MR FROSTY could be a deciding factor. Mr Frosty won a seven-fun mader, here less yets rates an assence of six months, so the fact that he has not run on the flat since mad November – he was pulled up over hundles last month – is not likely to be a problem. He was a good third on the run of the Donasster in March and his two larger runs over this course (he would have won the time of the wine compasser in March and his time lengt runs over this course new own rave work me with the wine postine rich suggest he is not far off that form. Diggnast is a dample. He was not far behind that placed Mr Fresty after starting clowly over the course and distance in November and has since spirit the subsequent winner Celespial Choir and Keath Homan in a 10-furiong handicap here. He got the trip, yet is probably better at a mile. Four Of Species has had thee runs over the course within 11 toys for his best being his second to Reiss. The winner was completing a four-timer and a repetition of that, something he could not manage on Tuescay, would put him in with a chance. This is more Montainer's trip after being their over a mile and a half in two of his last three starts. Selections MR FROSTY

Kim Ramsden and David Spencer, the principal figures behind the Palacegate Corporatioo racing syndicate, were vesterday warned off for five years by the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee. The hearing, which also resulted in the corporation being disqualified for five years, was called to establish whether Ramsdeo had committed a breach the Roles of Racing io passing himself off as Spencer. The disciplinary committee found that Ramsden had "acted in a manner prejudicial to the integrity, proper cooduct and good reputation of horseracing" by passing himself off as Speccer between 1991 and 1995 and disqualified him with immediate effect. The charge against Spencer, that of permining the deception, was also found to have been proved. and he received the same punishment.



#### RESULTS SEDGEFIELD WOLVERHAMPTON

1.10 Buyers Dream 1.40 Dolly Prices 2.10 Stop The Waller 2.40 Perfect Light 3.10 Briar's Delight 3.40 Highland Way 4.10 Livio INSPECTION: 7.30am

GOING: Good to Firm (Snow ton course).

Left-hand, undulating course, Easy fences and long run-in.

Course is 1m SW of town near junction of A689 and A(77, AD-MISSION: Paddock SS (OAPs \$4); Course \$2. CAR PARK: Free.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Snowy Lane (4.10) has been sext
262 nules by J Neville from Newport, Gweni.

PETERLEE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,000 added 2m 5f 110yds 32-0602 BUYERS DREAM (17) / Heiers 5 11 4 6-050 GRATE DEEL (12) P Beaumont 6 11 4 00-060 RELITELA (9) Nes S Smith 6 11 4 R WIII (12) ONE MORE BELL (57) / Works 8 11 4 R WIII (12) ONE MORE BELL (57) / Works 8 11 4

2 BUTCHS DREAM (17) / Hoises 5 11 / B. Storrey
GRATE DEEL (12) P. Besumont 6 11 / R. Sapple
MILITALIA (9) Mrs 3 South 6 11 / R. Wildmann (7)
ONE MORE BELL (57) / Worle 8 11 / K. Mones
SCOTTON GREEN (12) T. Easterly 5 11 / A. Thorotton
OKAPEL WALK (64) J. H. Erinson 5 10 13 P. Carborry
OKAPEL WALK (64) J. H. Erinson 5 10 13 R. Roome (7)
POLLY STAR (22) L. Lingb 8 10 13 Roome (7)
TO PROVE A PORT (63) J. J. O'Sez 4 10 7 A. Roome (3)
10 PROVE A PORT (63) J. J. O'Sez 4 10 7 A. Roome (3)
10 PROVE A PORT (63) J. O'Sez 5 10 10 More SM. 8-1 = 10 declared = BETTING: 3-1 Bayers Drasm, 7-2 Miss Milipede, 5-1 One More Skil, 8-1

1.40 J WADE CONDITIONALS SELLING HCAP HDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 2m 1f 110yds 

— 10 declared —
BETTING: T.4 Nodrom Wooder, 4-1 Kalzasi, 5-1 Dolly Prices, T-1 Revo
De Volse, 8-1 Journe, 14-1 Polly Two, 18-1 others 2.10 RAMSIDE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,500 added 3m 3f

Dispose and Dispose
1 0:12-27 RICHARDSON (16) 1 Forcest 3 120 D Byrns
223110 PSH GENT (9) (12) P 382 - A. D. 10 13
5 523275 PRINCE YAZA [12] (CD) 1 Cms 9 10 13
10 442-12 PLESSAN CASILE (47) (CD) 1 102-1 Mr.P. Marray (7)
11 17-0530 SHUR SHUR (8) 2-3512-3 RM-Grath (7)
13 .0533-3 CHARTER FAIR (127) 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
RETINGS 3-1 Step The Wader, 4-1 Richardson, 6-2 Irish Gent, 8-1 Joe
RETINGS 3.1 Step The Water, 4-1 Hammuson, 5-1 miners
White, Russian Castle, 10-1 Lupy Minstrel, 12-1 Jacobs, 14-1 others
(Illino)

- 18 declared -BETTING: 4-1 Perfect Light, 5-1 Premier First, My Daley, 6-1 Greenfield Mr 8-1 Final Bent, The Gallopin Inspir, 12-1 Heddon Hangit, 20-1 others 3.10 HETTON NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 5f (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 5f
F3 10F) DONNAM COLLONGES (50) F Murph; 5 12 0 P Carbory
(P 4231 BS WAY (45) IN Extract 7 11 10 M A Fingerold
(P 4231 EAST HOUSTON (47) (0) J J O'Nek 7 11 3 A Rocke (3)
ESP-227 NELLESHIY (3) (87) R AF 8 8 11 1 B Storey
13242 BRANTS DELIGHT (3) (87) R AF 8 11 1 B Storey
144700 DONNAMS REF (22) Arg ( Messel 10 10 13 Mr R Window (5)
F576-43 FINCHYS COM (5) G RATHERS 8 10 11 A Donnamy (7)
237523 NOVA CHAMP (115) W S S S TH 8 10 11 L Donnamy (7)
3 22273 NOVA CHAMP (115) W S S S TH 8 10 11 L Donnamy (7)
3 22273 NOVA CHAMP (115) W S S S TH 8 10 11 L Donnamy (7) HET INC: 9-4 East Houston, T-2 His Way, 5-1 Donjoan Collorgies, 8-1 Nei-tegrily, Finch's Born, 10-1 Brier's Delight, 12-1 others 3.40 PETERLEE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,000 added 2m 5f 110yds () GRIDLE PATH (21) T Sasserby 5 11 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_ L Wyer (00-0P GENERAL MUCK (27) J H Johnson 7 11 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_ P Carbony BETTING: 5-2 Highland Way, 3-1 Philharmonic, 6-1 die Path, Gussordole, Strongalong, 10-1 others 4.10 BOYSTON GROVE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 2m 5f 110yds

- 10 coccared -BETTERS: 9-4 Lives, 7-2 Singlescole, 6-1 Topothescribra Rama, 6-1 Urban Dencing, Exempler, bzza, 14-1 others

### sport

# Wainwright prepared for muck and bullets

When Gavin Hast-ings bowed out folminute defeat against France in the quarterfinals of the World Cup last

summer, Scotland did not have to take the high road or the low to find a new captain. Rob Wainwright, another Cambridge University man, was the

natural successor.
"In all honesty," Wainwright said, "the only bit of advice Gavin's given me was to disconnect my answerphone." Not quite in the Agincourt class of stirring addresses on how to beat the French but sensible none the less. Capt Wainwright, a doctor in the Royal Army Medical Corps, is, metaphorically speaking, up to his neck in muck and bullets.

He has just moved from Cat-terick to Edinburgh and is settling into a new house with his wife Romayne, Douglas (18 months), Natasha (five months) and Zala, a Hungarian hunting dog. A conversation with Wainwright is frequently interrupted as he barks out orders to his household company. However, another member of the family,

Inga, has gone Awol.
One of Wainwright's hobbies is falconry and he named his bird, Inga the winger, after Wigan's Va'aiga Tuigamala. He was working Inga in Richmond, Yorkshire, when she disappeared. "She went to catch something and I couldn't find her, I haven't seen her since although a friend has spotted ber, She'll be completely wild by now."

In assuming the captaincy on the field in addition to being a captain off it, Wainwright, clear-ly a frustrated Rob Roy, is attempting to combine two professional roles. "I didn't work towards the captaincy but there were not that many candidates. I don't want to sound cocky but I have the experience, seniority and a guaranteed place in the side. I couldn't ask for a better position to be in. I can't try to emulate Gavin. I've got to establish my own style. Off the field it's bard work. I don't have a typical working day."

Wainwright works at an Army medical centre and then bas a stint in Civvy Street at a local GP's practice. "We haven't got access to enough patients in

Tim Glover meets the natural leader intent on steering Scotland to victory over France at Murrayfield on Saturday

healthy population and most of the injuries I treat are of the sporting type. Working in a doctor's surgery gives me more experience and helps to reduce their workload.

After treating soldiers and civilians he works out at a health club or on the tartan track at Murrayfield and in the evening trains with his new club. Watsonians, for whom he will make his debut in a cup match later this month. He was thinking of rejoining Edinburgh Academicals from West Hartlepool but the Accies were rele-

the Army," he said. "It's a Road Scotland led 16-10, and afterwards Wainwright said he didn't realise the lead was down to six points, nor did be realise that no points were scored in the second half. "I'm not one who says, gosh look we're 12 points up, maybe we're going to win. I avoid looking at the scorehoard. I want to crack on. When the brain gets a hit fuddled others help with the tactical decisions.

By others he means the halfbacks, Bryan Redpath and sible for one man to call all the moves. If I've been running hard

I couldn't ask for a better position to be in. I can't try to emulate Gavin. I've got to establish my own style 7

gated and Hastings directed him towards his own chub.

Wainwright did not get the response he expected when Scotland drew with Western Samoa at Murrayfield and were beaten in Italy, but everything was turned around in Dublin, where a smart victory over Ireland has set up a key match against France in Edinburgh on Saturday.

"Tackling has always been one of our strengths, and we lost it against Italy because of poor concentration," Wainwright said. "You've got to want to put the man backwards, you've got to be hyped up, you've got to show aggression. For the Five Nations the players were up and prepared. No team assumes anything in the championship. Our fitness was higher, our

commitment higher." At half-time at Lansdowne

ROB WAINWRIGHT for five minutes and I'm knackered and out of breath it's hard to think. Others will see things that I can't see. A lot of calls will

be made by Bryan at the base

of the scrum. Wainwright was educated at Glenalmond, the alma mater of his father, Jim; who taught at the school. Wainwright, after occupying various positions, has settled at No 6 - his father played blind-side flanker, winning a Cambridge Blue in 1956. Rob, sponsored by the Army, spent six years at Cambridge studying medicine and played in three Varsity matches from '86.

He would probably have played in more but for injury. gave him the chance to win a Blue at boxing - beavyweight division, naturally. "I was lucky enough to win but there wasn't an awful lot of competition. It was good fun and I was quite

£40,000 to be won

In Saturday's paper, there was a Questions Of Sport multi-choice scratch card

which, if you answer three sporting questions correctly, gives you the chance of an instant cash prize from £1 to £1,000.

knowledge should suffice. But remember, you only get one chance to answer

As well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly accumulator prize of

You don't have to be an obsessive fan to play - a good general sporting

The card contains eight games so you can play daily through to Friday 2

Today we are giving you another sporting chance of an instant win.

each question, so if you are in any doubt, check it out.

happy to do it for a short time."
Wainwright is a medic more out of Dr Finlay's Casebook than ER (emergency room, not the Elizabeth Regina for whom be works). Modern doctors don't box. "There were only three two-minute rounds and you were so tired after one minute that the blows were oot that hard. There is a lot of boxing in the Army and everyone has to do it, although some civilian doctors refuse on principle. There is no doubt that a pro-

fessional fighter is taking a

huge risk."
Like father, like soo:
Glenalmond, Cambridge, casualty ward. Jim returns this week from Kenya, where be lives in retirement, to watch the rest of the championship; he gave up rugby at 23 because of a knee injury. Rob has often been in the wars - a fractured cheekbone against England two seasons ago was one of the more bizarre, he and Doddie Weir (broken nose) collided with fellow Scot Peter Walton as the tbree of them pounced on Kyran Bracken - but never a war zone. But for rugby be would probably have spent most of his time in Northern Ireland and Bosnia

"I wouldn't be where I was if I didn't have the flexibility that the Army gives me," Wainwright said. "I don't like hospitals... artificial light, artificial air. I'd far orefer to be in a small surgery." He'd far prefer to be stalking the Highlands with Zala and Inga, but that will bave to wait.

In one respect Wainwright, who was born in Perth and who will be 31 next month, does follow the doctor's casebook. He likes whisky. "I'm a collector to a certain extent but I'm not a malt snob. The trouble is I don't get much chance to drink it." Six bottles of Famous Grouse, a Christmas gift from one of the SRU's sponsors, lie untouched. He didn't even get a few drams inside him on Burns' night last week. Instead he was in Munich, receiving treatment to his back from a

German doctor. So, just how good is Wain-wright? We tested him with The Edradour, a 10-year-old single Highland malt. The smallest distillery in Scotland," he said. Very good.



Mark Bell's progress is impeded by a determined England A defence yesterday

#### Blyth displays winning spirit Blyth levelled the scores and

England A **New South Wales** 

There was plenty of spirit, as Andy Blyth demonstrated with his winning try in injury time. and bags of confidence as England player threw his hat in England's players in waiting the ring. Captain Diprose destrutled their stuff against an ef- clared this, the third victory fective and seasoned New South Wales side in bitterly cold conditions at Leicester's

Welford Road yesterday. On this performance, quite a few of this England A team notably in the back row and at scrum-half - should not have to

tainly earned their keep and even put in 10 minutes' overtime - five in each balf - as the Australian state side, unbeaten on tour until yesterday's confrontation, tested Tony Diprose's men throughout.

There were 11 capped Australians on the pitch, but every under his leadership, the best. "We played some outstanding rugby against Western Samoa, while France A were a bard, physical side, but this was our best performance and our most satisfying result," the Saracens

No 8 explained. wait too long before hitting payola in the full side. They cer-

kept the tourists' noses in front. But inside 10 minutes after an interval prolonged by Sky TV's coverage, Diprose's men were in front. Will Greenwood, a rangy Harlequin, powered through following a 49th-minute tap penalty. Alex King made up for his missed conversion with a

penalty five minutes later and the Australians were rattled. So much so that they finally put the A team under some real pressure which resulted in a try for Daniel Manu. Burke, who bad already kicked a fourth penalty, did not miss the conversion that edged New South Wales ahead and, in the final

added a fifth penalty.

before Tim Stimpson attempt. ed a final penalty, awarded apparently because of some back-chat from the tourists. England A: Tries Greenwood, Blytt; Con-vection King Pennitics Stimpson 2, King 2. Now South Wedes: Try Marry; Conversion Burke; Pensition Burke 5, ENGLAND A: T Stimpson (West Hardepool); P Hull (Briston), A Blyth (West Hardepool); P Hull (Briston), A Blyth (West Hardepool);

King popped over the conversion.

A Ming (Bissol Univ.) A Healey (Omst), R Rani-wick (Coveriny), R Cocheell, D Gasterin both Leotyster, G Aveher (Bristol), J Treater, (Sale), M Coury (Bristol), R HEE (Salayers), A Diprose (Salayers, Copt). NEW SOUTH WALES: M Burker (Eachwol), A Mundoch (Gordon), J Madz (West Harbou), R Tombe (Northern Suburbs), II Campesa Ren-wick); S Bower (Southern Districts), S Payme (Eastern's Suburbs), R Harris (Southern, M., Bell (Northern Suburbs), M Harris (Conton), W Waugh (Partickol), S Domosi (Vorthern Su-urbs), W Obsherdgane (Marris), II May (Eastern Kopt), T Gardin (Eastern Suburbs, capt). Replacements A Bindoc (Gordon) for harry, St.

Reference O Davies (Lienbradech). "

about how England - and, as

Rowell notes, English rugby.

generally - let themselves down by rank bad decisions as well as

rank bad errors. Yesterday Jean-

Claude Skreia blamed England for the sterility in Paris while, as

ever, his English counterpart was

# Rowell attacks England

STEVE BALE

Jack Rowell yesterday admonished his senior players for their failure to influence the way England have played their rugby this season and for leaving Will Carling, poor dah, to hear the full brunt of the captaincy.

With the Welsh ready to descend on Twickenham on Saturday, the England manager is evidently not convinced - nothing having happened to persuade him in three games this season - of Carling's unaided capacity to dictate changes when necessary.

So when the players collected at Richmond, Rowell re-

minded what he calls the "multi-cap brigade" of their responsibilities now that the old lieutenants, Brian Moore and Dean Richards, bave followed others from the recent golden

era out of the side. "The established players have been around for a while and suddenly their friends have gone and perhaps that's demotivating," Rowell said. The maoager ran through the forwards he would like to discharge this responsibility - Leonard, Johnson, Bayfield, the recalled Rodber and especially Ben Clarke as pack leader - noting that the failure of England's line-out in the last-ditch defeat

"If referees are going to interpret the rules as they did in Paris and in the World Cup when England played New Zealand, where you can come across and there's heavy bodycontact once the ball has left the thrower's hand, you have to be

minute of normal time, be

more streetwise to cope with it. "In any game Martin Bayfield plays in I expect him to come under a lot of physical pressure. We worked on a game-plan which would circumvent that but in the pressure of the game we didn't get anywhere near the variation in line-outs we had practised. It's something we have to sort out."

This is a specific example

hoping for greater expansiveness, These days Rowell would not dare take anything for granted.

"People are underestimating." Wales," he said. "Of course when you play Wales, or the other home nations, it's more than rugby, it's history. This will-? drive on a refreshing-looking. Welsh team, though I'd like the think England will fence Wales. in and impose some of their un-

doubted footballing ability."

One wonders, too, how our No

15 (Mike Catt) managed to gain an international shirt. Whenever

he receives a ball in open play his

mechanical reaction is to kick

squad in 1966 and who demed down the field usually down the Jimmy Greaves a place in the throat of an opponent.

I had heard from the media.

World Cup-winning team. Hunt that our rugby supremo, Jack Rowell, was determined to bung had featured alongside Greaves throughout the huild-up, Geoff an open and exciting style to the Hurst only made his presence English game. It is obvious, then, there is some other Eng. felt in the final preparations. lish team waiting in the wings, because given his view he could oot have trained the one I saw. Dumb's the word

The fact that not one ball reached Rory Underwood, match winner often, nor the other er wing for that matter, gives one the suspicion that with the coning of payment English rugby as a team game has come to the end of the road. Might we be witnessing professional players who want to be seen on TV as woost display I have seen in a long much as possible, be the pre-time. Professionalism seems to sentation good, bad, indifferent or, in this case, disastrous. Yours sincerely

RICHARD HAZLEWOO 37500 Chinon, France

Letters should be marked "For publication" and should contain daytime and evening phone numbers. They should be sent A to Sports Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, London a kick back, epitomised the tac-It was actually Geoff Hurst tics (it could hardly be called strat- E14 SDL. They may be shortened for reasons of space....

**HOW TO PLAY** Today we are playing the section of the card dated Thursday 1 February. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers coded as A, B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question Nineteen, either A,B or C in the Q19 column then repeat for Q20 and Q21.

THE OUESTIONS Q19 Who won the 1995 trailan Grand Prix, the last race in the Formula One season? A: Gerhard Berger

B: Michael Schumacher C: Damon Hill

Q20 What is the vest number of basketball's Magic Johason? A: 32 B: 28 C: 42

**021** Where was the first tournament of this sea European golf tour staged? A: Tenerife B: Portugal

IMPORTANT

£5,000 to be won.

Scratch off ONE letter only for each question. If you reveal three identical cash

**Questions of Sport** 

amounts on any one game section on any one day, you win that amount. After you have played the last game on your card, total the cash amounts you have revealed. If your total is £5,000 you win or share the £5,000 accumulator prize. You could also win today's instant prize of £100 by revealing an asterisk.

If you have revealed three identical cash amounts of £5 or under, DO NOT PHONE. Take the claim coupon OR a piece of plain paper with your name and address on it PLUS the relevant section of the card to one of the newsagents listed below. For prizes over £5, phone 01254 683666 (Irish Republic 0044 1254 683666) between 10.30am and 4pm

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if you have any difficulty redeeming your card and coupon for a prize send both to: Independent Questions Of Sport claims, PO Box 60, Burnley,

No purchase necessary. Cards are freet no purches recessary, cause are nearly available from newsagents or by sending a large see to: Independent Questions Of Sport Card Request, PO Box 41, Blackburn X, BB2 64G. One card per request.

The prozes for each game will be awarded to the player or players making a successful obein.

the player or players making a successful draim.

All claims are subject to scrutiny and cards must be intact to be eligible for a price. Cards with printing errors are void.

Winners must agree to the publication of their rames and photographs in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday.

Should more prizes be claimed then are available in any prize catagory, for any reason, a simple draw will talk place for the prize. Persons under 16 years old, employees of Newspaper Publishing plc., Mirror Group, Europint Promotors Lid., Newspaper Publishing plc., Mirror fire agents and families are not allowed to play.

The Editors 'decisions are final in all matters relating to the games. No correspondence can be entered into.

Newspaper Publishing plc reteries the right to Newspaper Publishing plc reteries the right to

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Thursday 1 February 1996 To claim prizes up to £5 DO NOT PHONE

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#### Duva dies of Not a good sport cancer at 44

Boxing

Dan Duva, a leading boxing pro-moter for almost 20 years, has died following a lengthy hattle against cancer. Duva, who was 44, had been admitted to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York on Sunday.
As the head of Main Events,

a family enterprise, Duva promoted or co-promoted more than 100 world championship bouts, including 12 heavyweight title fights that grossed more than £200m.

Duva was one of boxing's dominant promoters, along with Bob Arum and Don King. and Main Events fighters have included Pernell Whitaker. Evander Holyfield, Sugar Ray Leonard, Tommy Hearns and

"Dan was a terrific guy, a good promoter and good man," Aram said. "The boxing business will really miss him. Holyfield, the former undisputed heavyweight champion, said. "This day is a sad day for me because I lost a great friend, and an equally sad day for the boxing world."

Obituary, page 12

#### that illustrates a general point by France was self-inflicted. **Sports** Letters

Yours faithfully

Crosby, Liverpool

From Mr R Hazlewood

Sir: After the Southern Hemi-

sphere teams have shown the

limitations of 10-man rugby, I see from the French match that

the English have come up with

the answer - nine-man.
What I witnessed was the

time. Professionalism seems to

have produced a uncreative

bunch of robots. The pack con-tinued to play round the base of

the scrum and line-out even

From Mr I Beckett Sir: I agree with referee Stephen

Lodge that Sky Sports' trial by television in the recent game between West Ham and Man United makes his job very dif-ficult. How would Andy Gray perform I wonder out in the And I don't think he is fair in

some of his comments about Ju- DAVID RANKIN lian Dicks. For example, a two-footed tackle by the very talented Ryan Giggs oo Rowland of West Ham was not even mentioned by Andy Gray. Yours sincerely JOHN BECKETT Cinson

Hunt for the truth

Sir: I am tired of reading inaccurate reporting of Roger Hunt's role in the 1966 England World Cup team. A myth has developed that it was he who

'came with a late run" to take though a 10 year-old could have Jimmy Greaves' place in the seen after 30 minutes that it was team, a myth perpetuated in gaining nothing. The often your paper on 23 January when discussing Robbie Fowler's call clearly brainless, No 9 (Matt up to the England get-together Dawson), resulting in a scrum and this week.

who was the latecomer to the egy) of the whole match.

<u>ෙ (7</u>26) `.● v كذا من ألاصل

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No. of the last of

# The job is impossible. Frankly, anyone who even considers it should worry over being in the early stages of madness

Every now and then, in public prints club football and what now passes and across the airwaves, it is unin popular newspapers for investigation of the company of the compa more important job exists in football than the one Terry Venables intends to vacate next summer after the European Championship finals.

This erroneous and quite arrogant assumption of prominence in the world game, and the pressure it creates, is the main reason why there has been no rush of substantial canidates for a job with the now preerred designation of national coach. Who of sound mind would want to take on a task that pays less than the best appointments in the Premier League for braving a level of expectation out of all proportion to the technical deficiencies evident in

tigative reporting and the hair-trigger abuse of headline writers? "I just don't go for all that crap about it being the job nobody with real pride could turn down," said a manager who figures in the list of runners posted by some members of my pro-fession. "Look what has happened

to all those who had a go at it."

It is a troubled tale. Wearied by the interference of regionally biased selectors, and having failed to take England beyond the quarter-finals in four attempts. Walter Winterbottom, who was also director of coaching, resigned following the 1962 World Cup in Chile. Alf Ramsey, the hero of 1966, lai-

was fired after failing to qualify England for the 1974 finals in West Germany. Realising quickly that he had scriously overestimated the available talent - "At Leeds I wasn't restricted to England players" - Don Revie legged it to the Arab Emirates in 1977 for four times the money. Even Ron Greenwood, who restored dignity to the role when persuaded out of semi-retirement. came in for monstrous vilification. A year after succeeding him, Bobby Robson, who aged visibly in the job, was jeered off at Wembley. "Ir was the worst sound I'd ever beard. and knowing that my father was at the game made me feel all the more rotten," Robson said.



When it looked as though England would exit early from the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico, a headline branded Robson the "Fool on the Hill", an allusion to the team's steeply appointed quarters near

Monterrey. Robson would almost get England to the 1990 World Cup final, but not before his head was demanded for a bleak showing in the 1988 European Championship. Few of the players could regard themselves comfortably in the mirror but he took the flak. "Managers get too much of the credit and too much of the blame," Ramsey once said.

Realising that no effort was being made to extend his contract and that Graham Taylor had already been approached by the men who are presently agonising over Venables' successor, Robson went off to win the championships of the Netherlands and Portugal. Unable to progress beyond the functional football that had raised his reputa-

tion. Taylor proved to be a bad in-ternational manager. What he did not deserve was the orchestrated abuse that reached into his family life and portrayed him as a turnip.

More recently, even if it was personal problems that persuaded Venables to back off, be could not count on unanimous support from the Foothall Association, and some critics bave found fault with his

selection and tactics. Ever the optimist, Venables does not agree with them, but a view held personally is that the job is impossible. Frankly, anyone of note who even considers it should worry over being in the early stages of madness. It is not just expectations but the fact that fewer players than ever are up

international football. Brian Clough once advanced the typically glib and probably mischievous notion that no sympathy could he bad for the England manager if he was incapable of producing a successful team from a pool of more than 2,000 players at work in the old Football League.

By elimmating footballers from the other home countries, the Republic of Ireland, those from outside these islands, many who were past their best and a majority not up to standard, il was easy 10 dismiss Clough's assertion as a nonsense.

Things have not improved. If there is a leading light out there who fancies the job my advice would be

# **Tunisians** too good for Zambia

Tigusia pulled off a major upsegwben they beat much-fancied Zambia 4-2 in their African Nations' Cup semi-final at King's Park, Durban, yesterday. The Tunisians, who needed a penalty shoot-out to get past anble Gabon in the quarterfifals, completely outplayed Zamhia for the first 60 minutes to open up a 3-0 lead with goals from Abel Sellimi, Zoubeir Beya and Kaies Kodhbane.

When Zambia, the finalists of two years ago, began to come back strongly with a 68thminute goal from Denis Lota and a string of other chances, the Tunisian defence held out. Abel Sellimi put the game be-yond doubt in the 85th minute the final, after South Africa beat when he converted a penalty after Mehdi Slimane had been brought down by Elijah Litana.

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Hilary Makasa grabbed a consolation goal for Zambia in Africans ahead in the 22nd in by time, but by then it was far too late. Zambia were a shadow of the side who so impressively reached the last four. They drifted through the first 60 minutes. lacking invention, communication and, most importantly, resolve as the tough Tunisian defence comfortably

The Zambians did bave two chances, when Lota's shot from just inside the area was well blocked by goalkeeper Chokri El Quaer and Andrew Tembo stabbed wide from close range. The statistics showed they had greater possession in the first half, but it was the Tunisians who used the ball better and they went ahead after 16 minutes.

Mehdi, a constant menace down the flanks, slid a ball from the right across the goalbox and Abel Sellimi slipped in front of his marker to nudge it past James Phiri in the Zambian goal. Beya made it 2-0 after 30 minutes when he curled a freekick from outside the area round an out-of-position Phiri.

two minutes after the interval. A left-footed lob on the turo from Kodhbane bad Phiri vainly clawing at air as he tried to scuttle back to his line after saving on the edge of the box.

However, the Zambians, at last stung into action, began to play their way back into the game and after Tembo and Lota had both gone close they reduced the gap when El Ouaer could only party a shot from the edge of the box and Lota was on hand to score from the rebound. They continued to push bard for a second goal, but the mountain was too big to climb and Abel Sellimi's late penalty settled the tie and ensured Tunisia's progress to Saturday's

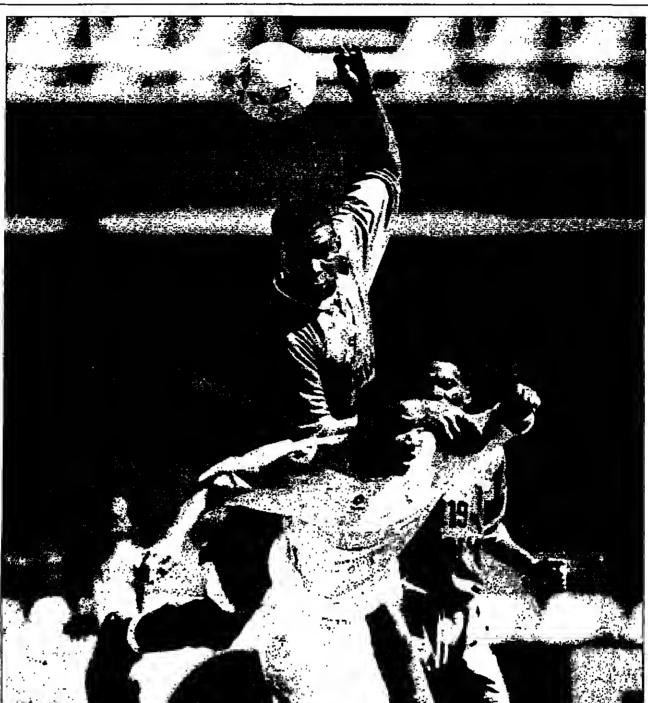
a disappointing Ghana side 3-0 in yesterday's other semifinal in Soweto.

John Moshoeu put the South minute and added his second two minutes from the end. Sean Bartlett struck the other goal in the first minute of the second half. It was a bad night for Ghana's two Premiership players: Leeds' Tony Yeboah was well out of touch while Coventry's Nii Lamptey was sent off late in the game.

George Weah, the Milan striker who is the mainstay of the Liberian international team, announced yesterday that he will not captain Liberia again. Weah, the 1995 Fifa "player

of the year", added, however. that he will play for Liberia again. He told the Italian newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport that he was upset "with all the problems caused me by [Liberian] Federation officials." He did not elaborate.

"I will play on the Liberian team again. I'm proud to be part of it, and I'll try to earn qualification for the [1998] World Cup along with my team-mates... but I won't be the team captain any more," Weah Tunisia went further ahead added.



Tunisia's Abel Selliml (white shirt) powers his way through the Zambian defence yesterday

ice hockey

Maurizio Gaudino, the German Inter-national who played for Manchester City last season, was convicted of insurance fraud in Mannheim yesterday and giv-

mauo in mannierm yesterozy and gy-en a suspended two-year jall sentence. AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP Semi-finals: (Durban) Turesa 4 (Abel Selimi 16, pen 85, Beya 30, Kodinbane 47) Zambia 2 (Lora 68, Makass 90); (Soweto) Sourn Amca 3 (Mostoeu 22, 88, Bartlett 46) Gharia 0.

Humberside Hawks beat yesterday's transfer deadline to sign lan Pound, the 26-year-old defencemen from Milton

Keynes Kings, until the end of the sea-son. Pound will make his Hawks debut

against Cardiff on Saturday. BRITISH LEAGUE First Division: Bilingham Bombers & Blackburn Hawks 13; Guildford Flames 3 Bracknet Bees 6.

NHL: Detroit 4 Toronto 2; NY Islanders 5 Buf-talo 4 (ot); Calgary 3 Edmonton 2 (ot); San Jose 8 Handord 2: New Jersey 3 Vancouver 2 (ot).

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 23pts £32 113.15, 22 £211.50, 21 £19.45, 20

VERNONS: Troble chance: 24pts 251,556.00, 23 £732.90, 22 £67.80, 21 £12.40. Tes homes: £17.00; Five aways: void pool stakes may be used in payment of cients' next entires (dvidends to units of 20pl.

TODAY'S

SPORTING DIGEST

### **Angry King hits** out at referees

Andy King, the Mansfield Town ing 2-0 away from bome and trymanager, yesterday aimed a bitter attack on Englisb referees after being ordered out of his dug-out for the second time

The former Everton player may face a Football Association disciplinary bearing after Tuesday's incident, which came less than a week after an FA bearing into an earlier incident was postponed because of an injury crisis at the Third Division club.

"It seems the situation at the moment is men in black against 22 players," said King, who was sent to the stands in the closing minutes of Tuesday's 2-0 defeat at Gillingham.

King was spoken to by the Staffordshire referee, Alan Wiley, after a confrontation with inesman Peter March, and was then made to walk across the pitch to occupy a seat in the main stand at Priestfield. "My remarks were not aimed at any individual, but the linesman took offence to it and called the referee over, and be asked me to leave," King explained.
"However, there's nowhere to go on that side of the ground, so he made me walk across the pitch, which took longer than here was left in the game.

"It was frustration that got the better of me. You are los- free transfer from Falkirk.

ing to get a result. I keep calling for some understanding and some talk to realise the pressures and frustrations maners are under. We should talk like adults, but it seems the situation at the moment is men in black against 22 players."

Earlier this season King was ordered out of the dug-out against Lincoln City after going on to the pitch to organise his nine-man team following two sendings-off. He escaped a toucbline ban last season after a similar incident at Wigan,

An exchange deal involving Aberdeen's Peter Hetherston and Jim McInally of Raith Rovers has been scrapped after the Dons player failed a medical yesterday. Hetherston, a former Raitb

captain, bad been set to return to the club after 18 months at Pittodrie, Aberdeen even paraded McInally, the former Dundee United, Nottingham Forest and Scotland midfielder, at a lunchtime news conference and he had been due to make his Dons debut against Cove Rangers in a friendly last night before the problem arose.

Hibernian have signed the 35year-old former Chelsea defender, Joe McLaughlin, on a

#### 'No Euro League yet'

Rick Parry, the chief executive of the Premier League, last night dismissed reports that European football's governing body, Uefa, would be forced into forming a super league as wild speculation".

Uefa meets representatives of 36 clubs from Europe's 12 leading nations, including Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United and Rangers, in Brussels on 7 February, and there have been suggestions that a European

League will he on the agenda. Parry discounted that, however. People should not get carried away with the idea of dramatic outcomes," he said. This should be the start of constructive and positive dialogue and not the basis for rumour and speculation.

"The Premier League believes that there is a need for di-

alogue on a number of matters

ranging from the Bosman case to fixture dates. Talk of alliances on other matters is wild

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speculation." Nevertheless, Uefa is liable to hear a few home truths from the clubs, including their con-

cero about the Bosman judgment and the governing body's resistance to demands from the European Commission to scrap limits on the number of "foreigners" clubs can field. The Premier League will re-

sist any attempt by Uefa to re-duce main European club leagues to 18 teams as part of their future plans. "We have reduced to 20 clubs and talk of further reductions is not appropriate at this stage," Mike Lee, its spokesman, said.

Rangers have put forward a number of proposals, including a "system to eradicate the preliminary round of the Champions' League, enabling more clubs to participate in the Champions' League".

#### SRU puts case on Europe

Rugby Union

The Scottish Rugby Union yesterday put its case for districts rather then clubs representing Scotland in Europe next season. In a document called

Strength in Depth, Success in Europe", circulated to clubs before the special general meeting arranged for 9 February, the SRU argues: "In the best interests of Scottish rugby, from both playing and financial angles, it should be district rather

than club participation. The objectives behind the proposal are to maintain strong representative sides, to build strength in depth through Scotand's clubs and to provide a Structure that better enables top Players to stay in Scotland."

The paper continues: "The committee has been mindful of its responsibilities to all clubs. recognising that the financial

benefits of participation should

be shared widely to further develop the game at all levels. "Scotland's clubs are just not strong enough to participate successfully in the European Cup, particularly since Welsh and French club sides are districts in all but name." The document also points out

that English clubs such as Bath and Leicester have large populations on which to draw. The SRU have made it clear that the three districts carrying the Scotland hanner will be

drawn from the four homebased districts, rather than English and Welsh-based exiles.

#### TUESDAY'S LATE FOOTBALL

PRESENT LEAGUE First Division: Sundamino Division: Bent-defand O Lemise O. Second Division: Bent-ford 1 Sycarbs O: Burnley O Oxford Und 2. Bird Davision: Durington 1 Presson 2; Ex-site 1 Haddesed O: Pulitarn 1 Scurnforce 3; Girden 2 Manufact O: Northampton 1 Phy-Insula C: Wassel Copinistic O. Postponed: Barney v, Northam Davis Grand Barnley and 2 WBA 2 doc; Wass Brownich won 4-1 on peopless.

Aberdoen 2.

BELL'S SCOTION LEAGUE Second Division:
Senuck 1 Fore Q.

Senuck 1 Fore Division: Support Int 1 Purfect Q.

Thome 1: Scaling 6 Abhrestor Town Q.

Senuck Q. Bisetcay 1. Second Division: Benstend Q.

Senuck 1 Croydon Q; Weenhoe 2 Bracknet Q.

Stead 1 Croydon Q; Weenhoe 2 Bracknet Q.

Third Division: Aveley O Herritord O. Guandian Insurance Cup Fourth round: Alderstrot 1 Beningstoke O. Gerfton Tropby third round: Carrey' Island 1 Clapton C: Northwood O Weeldstone 2. Third round: replay: Tittury 2 East Thurock O. Beazer Homes League Dr Mertens Cup fourth round: Crawley 2 Baldock 2. UniBond League Premier Divisione Berrow O Bishop Auckland O. Unifet Sussex County League First Division: Crompt Premier Division: Tonce 6 Newmarker 1. Winstonload Kent First Division Cap third-round replay: Whitstable 3 Chatham 1 (aet). SAURRIOFF RISSH LEAGUE Premier Division: Arus 3 Bangor O, Calor County Antrium Stield froat: Crusaders O Glenavori 3 (at The Cra), Bellast).

PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Derby 3 Botton 6; Sheffield Ltd 1 Newcastle 1 (22 Bra-med Lane). Second Division: Manchester Cry FRENCH LEAGUE CUP Quarter-fittation Cannes 1 Le Havre O; Guingamp 1 Marselle O; Lyon 1 Monaco O; Nior, O Metz 2. SPANISH CUP Quarter-final first leg: Serife 1 Valencia 1. DUTCH CLIP Third round: Cambias Leikasa-den 2 Ajar O.

#### **Athletics**

Sally Gunnell, the Olympic 400 metre hurdles champion, yesterday confirmed that she will race in Britain, for the first time in 18 months, tris weekend at the two-day AAA indoor championships in Birmingham. She will also run at the Ricoh Tour international in Birmingham on 10 February.

Basketball

Basketball
Worthing Bears yesterday received a work permit for their new 6ft 8in forward, Tim Gemet. The 34-year-old American, who has played all over the world, replaces Demok Plan, who has walked out on the club to return to the United States. Gamett is set to make his debut in the Budweiser League game against Manchester Gamts on Saturday.

NEA: 1A Leiters 128 Gotten Scate 118: Chosen 98: Houston 97: Intel\*a 107: Adanta 90: Process 114 Marn. 99: Oriento 104 Sesten 99: Denser 88 Manneson 86: Delse 105 IA Cappers 101: Sestie 97: New Jersey 88; Sacramento 102 Tourito 75.

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18 .571 15
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20 .512 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>
21 .500 14
25 .375 23
31 .279 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

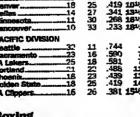
### TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7.30 unless stated FA UMBRO TROPHY First-round replay: Welling v Rothwell (7.45). First round sec-ond replay: Hyde v Manne; Routindge v Sud-tury Town 17.45;. First round third replay:

LEAGUE OF WALES: Lianelli v Alan Lido. PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Noting am Forest J Oldren (T.C.): Stoke v Rotts Coun-ty (T.O.): Tenniere v Eventin (T.O.): West Bermach Eventiol (T.O.): Second Division: Bractors Chy ( \$200000 (T.O.) production of the second (7.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMMINATION First Division: Southarmout v Queen's Park Rengary at Management Tomorasm v Lucon at St Atherts.

# PACIFIC DIVISION



Colin McMillan, the former World Box-ing Organisation featherweight cham-pion, stopped Justin Murphy after two minutes 17 seconds of the fourth round in Barking on Tuesday night . McMillan received no payment for the fight.

Cricket THIRD UNDER-19 "TEST" (Bullawayo, second day of four - no play first day): Zimbabwe Under-19 143 IP Hutchison 6-21) England Under-19 96 for 3.

Shane Nicholson is set to move to West Bromwich Albion for £150,000. The 25-year-old left-back could make his debut against ipswich on Saturday. Australia are a step closer to the Olympics despite a 1-0 defeat by New

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £26,927.25, 23 £291.80, 22 £15.05, 21 £2.10. Easy str. £26.20. Four aways: £22.00, Eight homes: £4.00. Four aways: £8.20 (for 20p). Goals galore: £167.00 (for 25p). Lucky numbers: 1 31 30 3 4 36. Zealand yesterday. Australia finished top of the Oceania Zone qualifying group and now face the North and Central American Zone runners-up for the right to play NUMBER Rugby Union

Basketbali SUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Leopards v Hernel Hempstead (7.30). ice hockey

Other sports

CLUB MATCHES: Ayr v Glasgow High/Ketun-side (7.30); Wignownshire v Stewarity (7.0); Aberavon v British Steel (7.0).

BRITISH LEAGUE First Division: Cheimsford Chieffans v Guidford Flames (8.15); Peter-borough Pirates v Tetford Tigers (7.30). The games Ajax have won in six outings this year. The Dutch champions lost only once in the whole of 1995.

BRITTENS: Trable chance (sine score draws and six so-core draws): 23pts 5570.00, 22 £9.60, 21 £2.30. Four draws: 29.90. Five sureys: 70p. Eight homes: £20.20.

Thomas Muster, of Austria, will replace Andre Agassi as world No 1 when the ATP rankings are published on 12 Feb-

Britain's Tim Henman and Mark Petchey

both moved into the quarter-finals of the Shanghai Men's Open yesterday with straight sets victories. Henman, the 21-year-old from Oxford, beat Jim Grabb, of the United States, 6-2, 7-6 in his or the United States, 6-2, 7-5 in his second-round match while 25-year-old Petchey, from Essex, defeated the German, Patrick Baur, 6-4, 6-4. Britain are now assured of a semi-final place because Henman and Petchey will play each other in the last eight. Another Pitton, Andrew Pichardson, was best-Briton, Andrew Richardson, was best-en 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the first round by Lars Jonsson, of Sweden.

ruary. Agassi, who replaced Pete Sam-pras at the top during the Australian Open last week, finds himself deprived of the top position because of a change in tournament scheduling. change in tournament scheduling.
Petr Korda, Deniel Vacek, Jiri Novek and
Cyril Suk have been picked by Torn GulJikson, the Czech Davis Cup team captain, to face Hungary in the opening
round of the 1996 Davis Cup world
group to be played on 9-11 February
in Pisen. Italy have also named a team
of Andrea Gauderoi, Renzo Furlan, Stefano Pescosolido and Diego Nargiso to
face tast year's finalists, Russia, for their
first round to be played in Rome also

first round to be played in Rome also on 9-11 February. on 9-11 retorary.

Southampton's Chris Wilkinson bowed out of the ATP Challenger event in Uppstadt, Germany, yesterday. The fifth seed was bearen 6-1, 6-7, 6-2 in the second pound by Bedomir Vasely of the

was beaten 6-1, 6-7, 6-2 in the sec-ond round by Radomir Vasek of the Czech Republic. SHANGHAI MEN'S OPEN (Shanghai, Chi-na) Singles, first round: Lionsson (Swe) bt A Richardson (GB) 1-6 5-3 6-4; A Charlassov (Rus) bt R Agenor (Halti) 7-6 7-8. Second round: T Hermen (GB) bt J Grabb (US) 6-4 7-8; M Petchey (GB) bt P Baur (GB) 6-4 6-4; A Olmosley (Rus) bt H Arazi (Mor) 4-6 7-5 7-5; C Caratti (tr) bt O Ogbrodov (Uzb) 6-2 6-3. PAN PACIFIC WOMEN'S OPEN (Tokyo) Sin

gles, first round: M Maleova (Bul) bt M de Swardt (SA) 6-3 6-2; L Devenport (US) bt N

AUSTRIA 95% 27.1 27.1 27.1 ine fire FRANCE Alpe d'Husz 85% 100% leola 2000 29.1 27.1 TEALY 26.1 26.1 31.1 100% 100% SUTTY OWITZERLAND 100% 7.1 24.1 NORTH AMERICA Breckenridge ....packe 100% 30.1

Kumuta (Japan) 6-7-6-4-6-2; I Majob (Croe) bt Z Gernson Jackson (US) 6-2-6-4, Second round: N Savanretsu (Japan) bt K Date (Japan) 7-5-3-6-6-4.

7-5 3-6 6-4.

CROATIAN MEN'S OPEN (Zugrob) Singles, first round: M Dennin (Cz Repl bt F Fetter-ten (Den) 2-6 7-5 6-3; T kempers (Nem) bt S Noszaly (Hun) 7-6 6-2; C-U Steeb (Gen bt & Karbacher (Gen) 2-6 -3; G Fonger (Fri bt O Prinos) (Gen 6-7-4; G Nemsseuc (Cros) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6-4 7-6. Second round: F De Wulf (Bell bt A Gaudenz (fü 6-3 6-3; C Martinez (Sp) bt K Nagatsuke (Japan) 6-3 6-0.

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SWITZERLAND SCOTLAND

# Scotland's natural-born leader 22

# Mystery shrouds **Asprilla** transfer

Football

**GUY HODGSON** 

Newcastle United's board met yesterday but the club made no attempt to end speculation that Faustino Asprilla's £6.7m transfer from Parma was off. The saga of wounded knee is

Instead of an unequivocal statement that the Colombian had passed a medical last Friday there was silence, fuelling rumours that Asprilla has a serious knee injury. The chief executive, Freddie Fletcher, delivered a terse "no comment".

Reports in Italy and Tyneside have suggested the deal is off, hut the mystery was heightened last night when the Department of Employment revealed that it had received a request for a work permit. "Newcastle submitted an application on Monday and we are working on that," a spokesman said.

Parma, too, appear to think the transfer is still in motion. A club spokesman, Giorgio Gandolfi, insisted that Asprilla was in good physical condition when he left Parma last week.

England's preparations for the European Championship have been disrupted by the

get-together this month but has abandoned it because so few of the number of FA Cup matches postponed last weekend.

"I'm disappointed," Venables said, but there is no point calling up players to make up numbers. England's next match is a friendly against Bullikely to be a long-running one. garia at Wembley on 27 March.

Scotland's manager, Craig Brown, has indicated that Duncan Ferguson is in contention for the finals. "If Duncan maintains his good form," he said. "and keeps behaving himself, be is definitely in my thoughts."

This morning the Everton striker learns whether he must serve the remaining seven matches of a 12-match suspen-sion. Judge Lord Macfadyen will announce his verdict after

deliberating since 19 January.
Manchester United's Nicky
Butt has failed to have a onematch suspension overturned after the FA dismissed an appeal against his sending-off against West Ham.

Sheffield United have made an inquiry about the Danish international Michael Laudrup, whose contract with Real Madrid is coming to an end. The 31-year-old striker's wages of £30,000 a week are a stumbling block, however, as is the interest of several Japanese clubs.



Fry boils over at

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD in association with

**ACROSS** 1 Attempt to hold competition

to produce ornamental pattern (7)

out (7)
9 Stuff in first half of comic sketch consuming 1,048,576 bytes? (7)

10 Clergyman's consumed a source of energy (7)

11 Menu item leading to language difficulty (5, 4)

12 Time, about noon, there'll be

wedding in Paris? (5)

13 Argument understood when enunciated (5) seen outside church in Spain
(9) 17 Sort of chemistry journal printed in one French town (not English) (9) 19 Managed to invest in notes

foreign currency (5)
22 Avoid Kansas City (5)
23 Champion in college disrupts
game with little hesitation (9)
25 Canal section seen from pub-

28 Get zany reaction, seeking

lic house by a railway near 27 Break rank in country dance

name of river? (7)

New Cross (7) 26 Flat fare from Inverness? (7)

Indian Civil Service has some

discretion over plans (7)

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More air circulates in cuphoard (7) Electrical connection shown by card (top to bottom) (5) Sailor caught asthma, unfor-tunately, constricted by extremes in Yukon (9)

Kate takes about an hour to do needlework (5) Ugly quarrel he's joined? (9) Competent enterologist shows understanding (7)

In Valencia it appears the tyre's about to burst shortly 14 Lazy delegate with no time to absorb old article is missing

nothing (5-4) 16 Accountant assumed business in some disharmony (9)

17 Detailed view of one department in New Hampshire (2-18 Bald old eccentric? (7)

20 One series of races around course mostly resulting in draw (7) 21 Procession for which one per-

son's inevitably late (7) 23 Scores less than a hundred?

24 What's suggested by decimal, frequently? (5)

Arsenal quick to scotch Venables speculation

**GLENN MOORE** 

First the Windsors, now the Arsenal. It seems that the nation's royalty are losing their nerve. A stony "no comment" used to be the upper crust's response to tabloid tales, but yesterday Highbury followed the Palace in issuing a swift reply to press speculation.

While Buck House's statement had criticised the messenger - a mobile telephone eavesdropper - Arsenal's rubbished the message. The suggestion that Terry Venables was being lined up to become their next manager drew this comment from managing director Ken Friar: "We do not like commenting on reports like this, but

it is total garbage. It really is."
As with the Windsors, football club denials cannot always be believed. However, this one appears to be genuine. While a case can be made for linking Venables and Arsenal, it is a flawed one.

The Arsenal board do admire Venables, and he turned down the job before it was offered to George Graham. The man him-idle - despite being presented self will be available as soon as with a series of shopping lists by he steps down from coaching England in July.

But given that Venables resigned from the national post to contest a series of legal cases, it is hard to imagine bow he could combine them with the more time-consuming task of club management. Neither are Arsenal, still recovering from the Graham scandal, likely to take on a manager who will be spending autumn in the court-

room. But while the story may be a case of putting two and two together and making five, there are reasons to make such calculations. Venables may not be going to be Highbury but that does not mean Bruce Rioch, the current incumbent,

will be staying. Under the post-Graham regime all transfer spending is conducted by the board. Since

the initial £12m spree on Dennis Bergkamp and David Platt in the summer they have been

Understandably, this reluctance to implement his plans for rebuilding- mainly due to the club's refusal to meet foreign players' wage demands - has frustrated Rioch. That disappointment bas

spilled over into arguments with senior players. After nine months at Highbury he is still to sign his contract.

Some of the above was referred to in yesterday's newspaper report. Unlike the Venables tale, none of it was denied. "He knows he has taken on

a mammoth task," a friend of Rioch said yesterday. "The slower the board move, the barder that task is - and he is the one at the sharp end."

Venables developments,

# suspension saga

Birmingham City will be without serve-team bookings shoulding three defenders through suspension for their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final first leg with Leeds United. Their captain. Liam Daish, has joined his fellow centre-back, Andy Edwards, and the full-back Gary Poole on the sidelines for the St Andrews encounter on 11 February.

Daish has received a twomatch ban after topping 21 disciplinary points. City's manager, Barry Fry, who is set to recall the former Leeds defender Chris Whyte from a loan spell at West Ham, said: "I think we will be lucky to keep the score down to 6-0. It's an absolutely incredible situation. We are being punished effectively for our success in the cup compe-

titions this season. "We've played about a dozen games more than anybody else in the country and that obviously means there is more chance of picking up bookings. I think suspensions should be decided on a pro-rata basis, taking into account how many games your club has played. I also think recount at first-team level."

The Croatian international defender. Slaven Bilic, should to day be cleared to play for West Ham in Saturday's home game granting of Buic's work permit will see the completition of his £1.65m move from the German club, Karlsruhe. The Hammers are, bowever, still awaiting dearance for the Romanian international. Ilie Dumitrescu, who was signed from Tottenham

for £1.5m last week. Roger Stanislans, the Leyton Orient defender, today answers a Football Association misconduct charge after becoming the first player in England to test positive for a performance-eahancing drug immediately after a match. Stanislaus, 27, has been suspended from the Third Division club pending the hearing, which could result in a lengthy ban. The former Arsenal apprentice was found to have traces of cocaine following a urine test after a 3-0 de-

feat at Barnet in November.

# imposes 180-day residential clause

STEVE BALE

**Rugby Union** 

The International Rugby Board yesterday threw into confusion the nascent transfer system that has followed professionalism when it insisted on a 180-day residential qualification for players wishing to change countries.

The restriction will apply even within the home countries. thereby casting doubt on the transfer of the Scotland scrumhalf, Gary Armstrong, to New-castle which had been thought to be a fait accompli once Arm-strong had completed the 120day stand-down that applies in England for the remainder of this season. From the close season the Rugby Football

Union had intended only a sev-

en-day qualification. The acquisition by Saracens of the former captain of Australia, Michael Lynagh, is a different case, though the IRB has agreed a let-out enabling the 180 days to be waived if the unions concerned mutually agree. Otherwise Lynagh, who has already signed a contract with the north London club, would need to be resident in England from the beginning of March in order to be eligible for

a prompt start to next season. As for British players, not to mention those from the Irish Republic and the rest of the Eu-

ment of labour is certain to face a legal challenge both at home and in Europe. The IRB's legal advice is that it could withstand auch a challenge and even if it did not, it takes the cynical view that any court case would drag

on for years. The IRB's excuse for exemption from legislation that applies in other walks of life is that it needs to keep tight control while rugby is finding its feet as a pro-fessional sport - a period Vernon Pugh, the board's newly elected chairman, puts at five or six years. The Bosman case, which

Albans Road, Watford and Hollinwood Avenue, Olcham. Back issues available from Historic New

ropean Union, this deliberate has latterly established freedom the best players." Pugh said-impediment to the free move-of movement for sportsmen out "It's a world asset that we have of contract, lasted seven years.

But even though Pugh, also chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union, is a barrister and his deputy, Rod Fisher, is a lawyer back home in New Zealand, the confidence with which he spoke at the end of the IRB's annual meeting in London was astonishing. For instance, he virtually ordered the RFU to reconsider its seven-day policy and said

exemptions would be exceptions and not the rule. "Rugby union is too precious to be thrown away to all these

money interests who can buy up OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St to where the money is - Eng-Thursday I February 1996 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office iand - would be stemmed

to protect. All other professional sports have been professional for some time and

essentially it's the contractual

position that regulates. But we

are under a totally new cir-

cumstance: we have gone professional practically overnight. "The market is a very new one and if it's left unregulated it will be to the disadvantage of the game worldwide. It's a settling-down period and I have no doubt if it's tested courts will take the view that rugby can control its own destiny at a time of transition." Not forgetting, either, that the flow of players from Pugh's union and others

